(ii) G.S.R. No. 815(E), dated the 27th July, 1988, publishing the Indian Police Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules, 1988.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 831(E), dated the 2nd August, 1988, publishing the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Sixth Amendment Rules, 1988.

(iv) G.S.R. No. 834 (E), dated the 3rd August, 1988, publishing the Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 1988.

(v) G.S.R. No. 835(E), dated the 3rd August, 1988, publishing the Indian Forest Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 1988.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—188 for (i) to (v)]

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair]

PUNJAB PRE-EMPTION (CHANDIGARH AND DELHI REPEAL) BILL, 1988

THE DEPUTY CHIRMAN: There is one small item, a Bill for introduction. If the House agrees, we may take up that item before the calling-attention. Yes. Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Punjab Pre-emption Act, 1913, as in force in the Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, in this very context, may I suggest a change in the rule itself that Bills for introduction could precede the calling-attention. If there is a formal change in the rules, we need not bypass the rules every time. Let there be a formal change in the rules. Bills for introduction take just a minute whereas calling-attention takes a pretty long time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why it is taken up before the calling-attention.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: You are suggesting for the future?

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI: Yes.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Proposed Amalgamation of a Number of Mills Under the National Textile Corporation which may lead to a virtual closure of a number of them and render a large number of workers out of employment

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): I call the attention of the Minister of Textiles to the proposed amalgamation of a number of mills under the National Textile Corporation which may lead to a virtual closure of a number of them and render a large number of workers out of employment.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Madam Deputy Chairman, Government's attention has been drawn by some Hon'ble Members to the proposed amalgamation of a number of mills under the NTC. At the outset I would like to make it clear that no scheme for amalgamation for NTC mills has been finalised so far. NTC has only formulated tentative proposals which are under discussion at various levels in the NTC and the Government. The proposals are also being discussed with the Labour

Unions and the concerned State Governments.

I would, however, like to share with the House, Government's serious concern about the increasing losses of NTC. Over the years NTC has incurred a cumulative loss of Rs. 1331 crores and during 1987-88 the net loss is of the order of Rs. 266 crores. The present trend is disquieting and points towards further increase in losses.

As the House is aware, the NTC was formed to take over and manage a large number of sick textile mills characterised by obsolescence of machinery, excess labour force, bad management practices and so on. Efforts have been made to improve the functioning of these mills over a period of time, but these efforts have not yielded the desired results.

When I am referring to the losses of NTC mills the Hon'ble Members would be able to better appreciate the situation on the basis of some facts and figures. Out of the total net loss of Rs. 266 crores suffered by NTC during 1987-88, the 68 composite mills account for a loss of Rs. 192 crores or 72 per cent of the total net loss. Again out of these composite mills 40 heavily losing mills account for 83 per cent of the losses. 14 of its spinning mills are of less than 25,000 spindles and are thus of uneconomic size. NTC also has the burden of managing a number of taken over mills which account for a loss of Rs. 58 crores out of the total net loss suffered by the Corporation during 1987-88.

It is relevant to mention here that with the emergence of the powerloom sector the textile industry as a whole is going through a process of restructuring over the last few years. The cloth production in the mills sector has been declining and the powerloom sector, now accounts for almost half the cloth produced in the country. As a result, the composite mills even in the private sector are finding it difficult to maintain their economic viability. The composite mills in the NTC are affected even more as they were sick units *ab-initio*.

In view of the above, modernisation of the composite mills of NTC is also not likely to be an economically viable proposition. Apart from the difficulty of finding funds for the large scale investment required for their modernisation, it may not be possible to market the increased output of fabrics in competition with the powerloom sector. It is in this background the NTC has worked out some proposals for restructuring and amalgamation of a number of its mills. These proposals are under discussion at various levels.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members, through you, Madam Deputy Chairman, that in any such scheme of amalgamation and restructuring of NTC mills Government would always accord high priority to the protection of the interests of the workers.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the Minister says that the plan for amalgamation has not been finalised. The statement says that the proposals are being discussed with the labour unions. May I point out, Madam, that even if the Minister claims that the plan has not been finalised, actually the plan of closure has been put forward in a well-guarded phrase hiding the real purpose of closing down a number of N.T.C. mills and throwing out of jobs thousands of N.T.C. workers? Therefore, it may be a proposal to the Minister, but the authorities of N.T.C. have started implementing this scheme of closure and retrenchment in West Bengal. They have de-notified Mohini Mills in a clandestine way without even informing the local management in a straigh-forward way. They have sent messages to the bank management to freeze the account. It is a well known fact. It appeared in the

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

press. I talked to the N.T.C. Chairman. He gave me the papers informing me that out of 13 N.T.C. mills in West Bengal, 9 are going to be closed and 6000 workers out of 13000 workers are going to be retrenched. They say that the plan has not been finalised. I can show the Minister's secret circular sent by N.T.C. to the different N.T.C. Mills in West Bengal asking the management to arrange for the so-called volutnary retirement under compulsion, threat, etc. and also by holding out allurements. They are actually implementing or seeking to implement a plan which will ultimately close down 56 mills all over the country, not merely ten mills in West Bengal. They are spread all over the country and this will mean losing of jobs by about thirteen thousand workers. This is apparent not only from the discussions that I had with the Chairman, but also from the papers which I am in possession of.

Madam, the NTC Chairman was kind enough to let us know that he was ready to invest about Rs. 20 crores as compensation for the six thousand workers who will be losing their jobs in West Bengal and he was ready to spend about fifty to sixty crores of rupees for modernization. Madam, he is ready to spend about Rs. 20 crores for the compensation fund and he is ready to spend it after the retrenchment has taken place. But, prior to retrenchment, he is not ready to invest a single pie! Therefore, retrenchment is a pre-condition for modernisation, as I am told by the Chairman of the NTC!

Madam, the Minister says that the plan of amalgamation is only the brain-child of the NTC or may be it is on paper. But I say that it is being implemented now. Therefore, this statement suffers from double standards. Madam, let me quote a few instances. Mohd. Shahidi Gulbarga Textile Mill in Karnataka has been locked out and the reason that is being given is that the NTC has not paid the electricity bill; Can you imagine a situation in which the NTC cannot pay the electricity bill of an NTC mill on account of which fifteen thousand workers have been thrown out while the NTC officers are moving about in air-conditioned cars? The NTC cannot pay the electricity bill of a mill when it is moving out to a new premises in Delhi by incurring a loan of Rs. 3 crores and is being forced to pay as interest only Rs. 3.00 lakhs per month when the present accommodation only costs them just Rs. 40,000/-. They are allowed to spend for their new premises about four lakhs of rupees every month instead of Rs. 40,000/-. But they are not ready to pay the electricity bill of one of its own mills leading to its closure and lock-out! They have already locked out the Minerva Textile Mill in Bangalore and only the Court has come to the rescue of the workers. Lock-out has been declared in the Rae Bareli Textile Mill in U.P. Therefore, Madam, the scheme of amalgamation is not a mere plan, is not a mere plan on paper. It is already being implemented by the management of the NTC. They are out to retrench the workers, they are out to close down the mills and they are out to throw thousands of men out of their jobs. Thererfore, the point is that they must categorically state the social justification of closing down the mills. What is the justification for this so-called plan of amalgamation? Madam, the simple argument that is advanced, the hackneyed argument that is advanced, is losses; the hackneyed argument is loss of market; and the hackneyed argument is the inability of the Textile Ministry to find funds for modernization. But may I ask one question? Have you studied the problem? Has there been any study team to find out whether the NTC is viable or not and, if so, where is the report? Without a study, without a proper study by experts and by men with expertise, is the Minister himself competent to do it? Or is the state-

ment about the so-called losses enough social justification for throwing out of job about thirty thousand workers in the country?. They are suffering losses and it is quite true. But the loss is because of mismanagement; the loss is because of rampant corruption; the loss is because some people under your very nose are looting the national exchequer; and the loss is because it is a deliberate attempt to close down the public sector units under the Textile Ministry so that the textile industry can be handed over to the private sector. Somebody is in collusion with Reliance Industries; somebody is in collusion with Bombay Dyeing; and somebody is in collusion with Century Rayon. Somebody is in collusion with these people to liquidate the public sector units in the textile industry and this is being done deliberately. This clearly speaks of the situation now prevailing in the textile industry, particularly in the NTC.

Madam, why is there the loss? Let me give you the concrete instances of the loss. The loss is there because there is mismanagement. Let me give the instances. Can you imagine the Board of the National Textile Corporation, a holding company, does not meet and without the Board's meeting important decisions are taken. Why the loss? There is because the mills are working undercapacity; 45 per cent to 60 per cent is the working capacity. The loss is because the production of spinning has declined. Everybody knows that NTC can earn money by sale of yarn because there is market. The handloom sector that he was speaking of, the powerloom sector that he was speaking of, is the readymade market for the sale of yarn produced by NTC. But even the production of spinning also has gone down. The loss is because you do not have any sale policy. The loss is because there has been piling up of stock of about several crores, because your marketing outfit is totally worthless and the policy is bankrupt. About 11 million metres of cloth is stockpiled. You have imported Mr. Mukherjee as the expert on marketing. Who is this Mr. Mukherjee? He belonged to Reliance. Therefore, somebody from Reliance has been brought to have a close look and a close knowledge of the inside picture of NTC. Therefore, the loss is manmade. It is a case of sabotage. It is a case of subversion of one of the biggest public sector undertakings of the country. The loss is because maintenance of the machinery is being neglected. The loss is because the maintenance is unsatisfactory. The loss is because even the orders from Defence have declined. The loss is because DGS&D orders are not being placed regularly. Cannot the Minister find courage to speak to Mr. Pant and get sufficient orders from Defence? Cannot the Minister find courage to speak with his counterparts and get more orders from DGS&D? Therefore, the loss in manmade. Can Mr. Mirdha deny that he had a meeting on 14-7-1988 with the NTC officials for a review and in the meeting itself he had expressed strong dissatisfaction about the way in which the NTC is being run? Therefore. Mr. Mirdha is the doll dancing on the table and somebody is doing the backseat driving. It is the bureaucracy, the corrupt bureaucracy, in the textiles. in the NTC, who is responsible for such loss. I give you statistics. In 1986-87 the loss was only Rs. 149 crores. In 1988-89 in three months the loss has been Rs. 60 crores which means the projected loss of NTC in the current year is likely to be Rs. 260 crores, almost double. The loss is increasing by leaps and bounds because the new management that has taken over the NTC is after the liquidation.

Then I come to the cases of corruption. It is a case of corruption and scandal. It is a bigger scandal than Bofors. Parliament has been discussing Bofors for days. What was involved in Bofors was only Rs. 65 crore of kickback. But the scandal in the NTC involves thousands of crores of rupees. Therefore, if the scandal

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

of Bofors has shocked the nation, the scandal of the NTC should shock the nation much more because it speaks of a story of colossal corruption, mismanagement and deliberate subversion and sabtoage. I give you some instances. The NTC has entered into a contract with a foreign country for supply of 17 million metres of textiles for the year 1988. The price agreed upon is too low. The NTC mills will be losing Rs. 5 per metre. The NTC will be losing Rs. 9 crores in this deal with a foreign country. And the NTC is importing some 200 looms from that country. It has been found after some of the looms were set up in Bombay and Bangalore that the working of the looms is completely unsatisfactory. And I can tell you, Madam, this foreign deal has not been approved by the Board of NTC. Therefore, with a single deal the NTC squanders away Rs. 9 crores from the national exchequer. Madam, do you remember Jainsons Clothiers? Do you remember the scandal of beef tallo? Messrs. Jainsons Clothiers have been appointed as exclusive agents for the export of NTC products without any notification in the papers. While it was known to be 2 per cent commission, the Jainsons group of companies was involved in one of the recent biggest scandals some time back, because they imported beef tallo instead of importing mutton tallo. Therefore, NTC is in the company of deliquent private business. NTC perfers to purchase cotton from private parties, ignoring the public sector organisations like the Cotton Corporation of India and the Maharashtra Federation. In any case, the bales are never marked what quality they are. They are purchased from Adilabad Society, a private organisation, at a price eiter equal or higher price quoted by the Coton Corporation of India or any other public sectr organisation. Even the payment of sub-standard cotton was arranged by the delinquent management of the NTC much before the payment for Maharashtra Federation was made. Madam, the NTC has not paid the outstanding dues of a public sector like the Maharashtra Federation. But they took trouble in arranging expeditious payment to a private firm which supplied sub-standard cotton. You understand where the nexus of corruption lies. It is not through external deal in arms that a kickback generated in the country. It is also within the country. There is a source of kickback.

Madam, Maharashtra NTC was asked to purchase polyester staple fibre from Swadeshi Polytex, a taken over firm, that is, a Government firm. The monthly requirment of Maharashtra NTC is 4 to 5 quintals. I pray and I reqeust Mr. Mirdha to remember Mr. Chetty—does he remember Mr. Chetty?—who was instrumental in making the purchases, violating the directive, not from Swadeshi Polytex but from Reliance. And he purchased not four or five quintals of polyester fibre, but 100 quintals of polyester fibre only a few days before the Budget was presented to Parliamnet, knowing fully well that the Budget is going to reduce the excise duty on polyester fibre. Therefore, just two or three days before the presentation of the Budget, a big amount of polyester fibre was purchased incurring a loss to the extent of lakhs and crores of rupees. Why was it done? Was it done without any interest, Madam?

Some years back, the NTC, WBABO—West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa—supplied cloth worth crores of rupees to a buyer in Bihar. And the name of the firm is Adarsh Bazar. Textiles worth several crores were sold out by the subsidy of the NTC to a firm in Bihar on credit without verification, was sold to Bihar without security. The goods had gone out of stock. When the bill reached the purchaser, it was found that no such firm existed. (*Time Bell rings*) Therefore, the NTC sells out to fictitious buyers, and as a result the NTC has lost crores. Immediately, Madam the Minister may jump up

and say: yes, yes but we have handed over the case to the CBI. You might have handed over a case to the CBI or to the RAW or to anybody else. But will that money come back? This is where lies the source of loss. The source of loss is corruption. The source of loss is mismanagement. The source of loss in the nexus between the corrupt officials that rule the Textile Ministry and the delinquent business of the country.

Madam, another case of unheard of corruption is that the NTC, Maharashtra South, at the time of the take-over of 13 mills in Bombay, supplied to the merchants against fictitious advances a large quantity of cloth. This is pre-takeover *sauda* discharged after take-over on the basis of fradulent entries in the books of accounts of the private mills against the provision of the Act passed by the Parliament. It means, Madam, before the nationalisation had taken place, the mills had entered fictitious entries showing that they have taken advances from this or that merchant promising to supply them cloth at the appropriate time. Madam, the Government had no obligation to oblige the fictitious entries and to oblige the contract that the delinquent business magnates have entered into before the takeover. That was also not the rule passed by the Parliament. Therefore, they had advanced textiles against fictitious things. And it was done deliberately to drain out a large quantity of money. (*Time bell rings*) Madam, I seek your indulgence because it is a case of unheard of nepotism and corrpution involving thousands of people of this country. And this problem should invoke interest among the Members cutting across the political lines and philosophy. Therefore, seeking your indulgence, Madam, may I refer that on May 5, 1988 I had written a letter to the Prime Minister? In that letter, I requested the Prime Minister, and I quote: "When the implementation of the Textile Policy has brought to focus the urgent need of review and reversal of the same, I encroach upon your valuable time to seek a thorough overhaul of the present set-up of the Textile Department and removal of corrupt official and delinquent industrial nexus, defrauding Government of assets worth crores and crores of rupees, passing of secret and priviledged document to the former owners of nationalised mills and arranging payment of compensation to the owners of the mills subsequent to nationalisation in excess of the value."

Madam, let me give you an example. I accuse Mr. Mirdha. Let him come before the Parliament and tell us why Swadeshi Cotton Mill in Kanpur was nationalised on payment of Rs. 24 crores when the value of the assets taken over was only Rs. 17 crores. This is where the source of mismanagement and corruption lies. You have taken over assets of Rs. 17 crores and you paid them Rs. 24 crores. Have you gone into it? Do you know the facts? Have you ordered an enquiry into it. That is not the full part of the story, Madam. This Swadeshi Cotton Mill owns shares in two other firms. After the Swadeshi Cotton Mill was nationalised, the delinquent industrialist of the Swadeshi Cotton Mill had gone to a court and said that the shares owned by them in the other companies cannot be taken over by the NTC. Therefore, there was a case. . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I seek two or three minutes more to give you an example how the bureaucracy is in collusion with the delinquent management. Madam, there was a case wherein the former owner of the Swadeshi Cotton Mill had gone to the Supreme Court and stated that the shares owned by them cannot be a part of nationalisation. A prolonged litigation took place. In course of the prolonged litigation, the Swadeshi Cotton Mill placed before the Supreme Court a secret note signed by Mr. Siromani Sharma, and also signed by Mr. Mirdha. That was a secret, misleading note to the Cabinet.

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

How could the delinquent businessman get hold of a secret submitted by Mr. Siromani Sharma to the Cabinet? The note was signed by Mr. Siromani Sharma and let me quote the note—I still have a xerox copy of the note that Mr. Siromani Sharma had signed. In the note, Mr. Siromani Sharma suggested that 'the shares held directly by Swadeshi Cotton Mills in two other mills worth Rs. 10 crores were specially excluded from the scheme of nationalisation and had the Cabinet approval.' What a brief for a delinquent business magnate! Not only this note was submitted to the Cabinet but his secret note was supplied by somebody to the business magnate by whom, Mr. Siromani Sharma might tell us—and he made use of the note and filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court. Even then, the wisdom of the Supreme Court prevailed. And the writ petition was dismissed. (*Time Bell Rings*). Madam, last point. I would like to know from you whether the Secretary of the Textile Department can rent out his own building to a firm which is under him. The Secretary of the Textile Department had let out his own house to National Handloom Corporation under his own department in Lucknow on payment of Rs. 3,000 per month. What more there can be? A clear case of misue, total misuse of one's official position. Therefore, Madam, my last point, let me conclude, is that this is a case of unheard of corruption, this is a case of unparalleled loot, this is a case of total mismanagement, actually a conspiracy to liquidate the public sector in the textiles and somebody is colluding with the private sector. Therefore I demand, let there be a parliamentary probe. I am ready to place some more facts before the Parliament. Let there be a Parliamentary probe, Madam. (*Time Bell Rings*). Two minutes more, please. Let there be a Parliamentary probe as you had in the case of Bofors. I demand public inquiry into the allegations that I have brought about. Many more allegations are with me. Let there be an inquiry.

Madam, I demand let there be a study team to study the viability of the NTC before this scheme of amalgamation, which is actually a scheme of retrenchment, is put into effect. Madam, I demand postponing of the amalgamation. Amalgamation programme must not be pushed through. I demand the openning of the locked up mills in Karnataka and U.P. I demand renotification of the Mohini Cotton Mills of West Bengal. I demand that the Government should advance some funds for the running of the NTC in a better way. Madam, this is a lamentable story of conspiracy. I believe this august House will take this into consideration and Members belonging to the different shades of political opinion shall rise to the occasion to put in dock the delinquent management and totally corrupt bureaucracy now holding the charge of textiles. The textiles cannot go in the way it is going. There must be a national probe. The national conscience must be roused and the people and the Members of the House must compel the Gobernment to order a thorough and total probe and till the probe is undertaken the people who are held responsible on account of the corruption must be suspended and must be put out of office. Thank you for the time that you have given me.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): Hon. Deputy Chairman, though the hon. Minister has tried to assuage our agony by stating that the National Textile Corporation has not yet finalised its scheme of amalgamation of its units, but I would also like to reiterate what my learned colleague, Comrade Gurudas Das Gupta has just now said that the process has already been started. This amalgamation process has already been started by the NTC in some places and I would also like to cite an example from my State, i.e., West Bengal, that instructions have been issued to the local management

of NTC not to supply any yarn from the Bengal Textile Mills to Manindra mills which is basically a weaving mill and to start payment on account of voluntary retirement. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this particular case also.

Madam, before I dwell on any other thing, you would kindly agree with me that in the hands of the present Government of India, not to speak of NTC mills, the entire textile sector of our country has been in total doldrums and as apprehended the new textile policy of the Government of India instead of inviograting the alling textile industry of our country has already spelt disaster for so many sections of the people of our country. It has spelt disaster for millions of common people as consumers of textile goods. It has also spelt disaster for hundreds and thousands of cotton growers of our country. It has also spelt utter disaster for hundreds of textile workers of our country. And it has spelt disaster for the small and medium-sized textile units of the country. The working of this textile policy within this period of two and a half years has already proved that the main object of this policy has been to ensure profit to the big monopoly in the textile sector to the exclusion of all other sections in the country. So, before going into the problems of the NTC mills, I would once again demand—we have been demanding—of the Government to scrap the textile policy of the pro-captalist textile policy, and try to evolve a pro-people, pro-worker textile policy, having representatives of all the trade unions of our country to have a say in the formulation of our country to have a say in the formulation of the same.

We are discussing the specific problems prevailing in NTC mills; but I think the problem there is not an isolated matter; it is a part of the overall slump in the textile market of our country as a result of stagnating per capita consumption of textile goods in the rural areas and that is due to a systematic erosion of the purchasing power of the people. Who is responsible for it? It is the Government, it is the pernicious economic and financial policy of the Government which has, over these years, resulted in a systematic erosion of the purchasing power of the millions of people of our country, and the Government is conveniently trying to hide this major point in the textile crisis, before the public.

The NTC, to the utter astonishment of trade unions and the textile workers, has come out—the hon. Minister says it is just contemplating introducing a scheme, but it has already come out—with a scheme of physical amalgamation of textile units within its organisation. As my learned colleague, Comrade Gurudas Das Gupta has already said, if this scheme of phycical amalgamation of NTC units is given effect to, it will definitely result in retrenchment of workers, ultimate retrenchment, in NTC mills and that will be another catastrophe for them. I do not know at which level the NTC authorities are discussing with trade unions in the NTC sector. If they are discussing it, it is well and good. Madam, now in our case, in case of West Bengal, we come to know that out of 14 NTC mills, only 4 or 5 will be retained, and the others will be amalgamated with these 4 or 5 NTC mills. It wil create additional unemployment for about 7 to 8 thousand workers working in those mills. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that these mills were taken over by the Government of India and were nationalised by the Government of India with a view to reviving these units and to make them viable. Now, if the Government is bent upon doing the opposite, and if the NTC at its own instance is to give effect to this physical amalgamation programme resulting in huge retrenchment of workers, then the very purpose of nationalising these units of taking over these units will be frustrated. So the Government should immediately stop the NTC giving effect to this proposed

[Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem]

physical amalgamation programme of the units. I hope the hon. Minister will give special attention to this problem.

I would like to refer to the malady which the textile units in West Bengal have to suffer—not to speak of only the NTC mills, but other units also. We have been stating for long years together that textile units in West Bengal and in that region of our country, have to procure cotton from distant cotton-producing regions like Maharashtra and Gujarat, and these units have to incur heavy expenses on account of freight charges. The present Government have retained freight equalisation principle in respect of iron and steel and telescopic freight rates for coal. This freight equalisation policy which has been retained for all these years has already done tremendous damage to industrialisation as a whole, not only of West Bengal but the entire Eastern Region of our country. The Government is still retaining it. If you are not ready to withdraw it, then, why don't you extend this freight equalisation policy to other important industrial raw materials like cotton. This would also help, to some extent, the cotton units of West Bengal and the Eastern Region of our country.

Now, Madam, before I conclude, with your permission, I would just like to refer to what my learned colleague, Comrade Gurudas Das Gupta, has already mentioned, namely, the recent act of misdeed in respect of a textile mill in West Bengal. The Government of India has already issued denotification order in regard to the Mohini Mills. Madam, this mill was taken overwith the sole purpose of making it viable. During all these years, the Government of India adopted a very casual attitude in running this mill. It has been repeatedly pointed out by trade unions that unless immediate steps are taken for modernisation of the mill, it cannot be made viable. But the NTC authorities there did not pay any positive attention to this. The two thousand workers who are employed in this mill are on the verge of peril of unemployment. Apart from their miserable plight, which should be taken care of, there is another thing which I would like to mention. The mill has an additional advantage for West Bengal. In addition to fabrics, the mill has a capacity of additional spindlage to produce about 30,000 kg. of surplus yarn per month for sale in the market which can well be utilised in the handloom sector of the State. It will also help the State to attain self-sufficiency without depending much on others. But this advantage will go if the Mohini Mills were allowed to close down.

Madam, I would like to reiterate the demand made by learned colleague, Comrade Gurdas Das Gupta. The hon. Minister should pay special attention to this matter. Our Chief Minister has made repeated appeals to the Textiles Minister, the Industry Minister and even to the Prime Minister. But the astonishing thing is that—Madam, you will be surprised to know—the Government of India did not show even the courtesy of informing the Chief Minister of West Bengal or the Government of West Bengal prior to the issue of the denotification order. I demand that this denotification order should immediately be withdrawn.

Now, Madam, before I conclude, with tions. Madam, with your permission. I would like to put only two questions and if you permit me; three. Would you kindly arrange for immediate consultation with representatives of the concerned Governments of the States having NTC mills and the Central trade unions to go into the whole matter and to formulate specific proposals and schemes for making the NTC mills throughout the country viable without effecting any retrenchment of workers? Secondly, pending such consultations and formultion of proposals and schemes for the revival of the NTC mills, would you stop the NTC authorities from implementing

their dangerous policy of physical amalgamation of the units? Thirdly, to ameliorate the problems faced by the textile units in West Bengal and the Eastern Region of our country, also the NTC mills, would the hon Minister take up the matter with the concerned Ministry and persuade them to scrap the freight equalisation policy? If this is not possible, would he be ready, would the Government be ready, to extend it in the case of cotton also?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I call upon the next speaker, Shri Chimanbhai Mehta, since there are many more speakers, I would like to know from you whether you will agree to continue the discussion during lunch-break as we did yesterday.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): We agree.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): This is a very important matter. We should continue the discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can have your lunch, but there will be no lunch break.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, the hon. Minister has said in his statement that the NTC has formulated tentative proposals which are under discussion at various levels. I think we should also be told what these proposals are because there is a fear that large scale unemployment will be resorted to and the labour would suffer. So unless we know the proposals which are being discussed at various levels, we cannot have a fruitful discussion. As these proposals are being discussed at various levels, is is no longer a secret document. In fact, if the Minister had told us about them while making his statement, we could have discussed this matter more fruitfully.

I know sometime back, around the month of May, I read in the newspapers of Delhi that DCM Mill was going to be closed and the Delhi Administration opposed it. But in the High Court, unions and management agreed for a closure. That was also surprising for me because if they were to go through the legal channels, the workers would have got around Rs. 15 crores as compensation after closure, but on the basis of the settlement they were to get Rs. 70 crores if the mills were to be closed.

The Textile Minister has also said that Government would like to give high priority to the protection of the interests of workers. It has rightly been mentioned by my friend that the entire textile industry is in crisis, and that is reflected in the NTC also. They talk about surplus labour. Therefore I must take full care of the labour. But if the entire industry is going to be doomed, not only because of labour but because of various factors, the whole thing has to be streamlined. Therefore when Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta said that there should be a thorough probe, I have no objection if the probe is held against the malpractices and mismanagement. It is a good suggestion, I agree to it....That is correct, but how many probes and how many enquiries would you have? So come to the point, make it as a comprehensive proposal, the Minister is here, let him appoint a Committee of those members who are speaking on the NTC issue, on the textile issues, let them have a conference with him for a day or two and let there be a thorough discussion. And he should also openly and in a friendly manner come out with what he thinks about it. If he goes on consulting the officers every time, then perhaps he may consult them, but as a creative person, which he is, he can come out with some proposals. Let us discuss those proposals jointly and then come to some conclusion. That would give some fruitful results. Otherwise we demand a probe, there is a probe and then the CBI comes into the picture. It will investigate

[Shri Chimanbhai Mehta]

things for months with no results. By that time the situation also alters drastically.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair]

But one thing is sure. Why talk of NTC alone? Many of the public undertakings are suffering from corruption. NTC is perhaps suffering from corruption much more than others. That is a fact because the way it functions is somewhat different compared to other undertakings. There are more than a hundred mills they are managing from Delhi and a dozen or a dozen and half of subsidiary mills which they are managing from the capital centre. Now the mills are purchasing hundreds of things and selling hundreds of things. How can you supervise things from the plant evel to the apex level? I was reading the report of the auditor also. Nowhere is he talking of mismanagement. Mismanagement is a crucial factor. You will declare a good textile as a damaged textile and undersell it. You may buy coal and the coal may be mixed with stones. You may buy chemicals and the chemicals may be sub-standard. So, there is a cut everywhere. Therefore, labour participation is a must now.

Labour participation has not resulted through, not because they do not want it—let me make it perfectly clear. The Ministry may like to have it, but they are not determined. But the labour movement is so much divided about appointment of the labour representative, whether it should be by ballot or by the union. They have not sorted out this problem and so the bureaucracy is taking advantage of it. So, partly the fault lies with us. The labour movement itself may consider that there can be 50 per cent by ballot and 50 per cent by appointment by union. They must come to some sort of agreement so that labour participation from plant level to apex level becomes a reality. I am not only for labour participation. People, as consumers of textiles, are also definitely concerned with it. But we don't think of putting their representatives there to represent the consumers' interests. Somehow we have been evading this issue.

I have also been advocating that the posts of Chairman and Managing Director should be handled by two separate persons and not one. It was replied here that after a long time they thought it over. But this delays work. This is not the correct process. When we are finding corruption going on, how can you say that all the authority should be concentrated in the hand of one man?

Recently I came across a report—I do not know; it should be verified; the Minister should be able to clarify; the cotton was being purchased till this day from CCI by the NTC mills—that recently they started purchasing 30 per cent cotton from private traders. Maybe they are doing through tenders and other things, but tenders are invited in every case and you know how they play with tenders. Now, what was the need of buying 30 per cent from outside? You have all the arguments, of course, that CCI cotton is costlier and therefore you want to get it privately. Of course, the CCI has to bring the price to a reasonable level. But how can they do it when the CCI is purchasing cotton from the farmers? I have been participating in the farmers' movement also and they are campaigning that the CCI must purchase from them. After they purchase it from the farmers, if the NTC, which is the biggest consumer of cotton, goes and buys cotton from private traders, what will be the result? Of course, the private traders know the trick. There is the problem of weight, there is the problem of mixing up, there is the question of quality. Cotton is a very complicated trade—everybody knows about it. Ultimately it will affect the quality. If the quality of NTC cloth is not good, one of the

reasons is the bad raw material being used and, maybe, obsolete machinery, maybe not so efficient a machinery. All these factors are there. I am not denying that. While we are adding to these factors, this has to be properly considered.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Would you please yield for a moment? If you don't mind, may I ask him a question? Sir, he is a very distinguished labour leader and a Vice-President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. We are all discussing here in a vacuum and we are talking of labour participation, corruptions and all those things in regard to an industry which has no future at all. When the economic and productive force i.e. the machine itself is dilapidated and old, how are your suggestions going to be helpful to improve the health of the industry and help the workers? The better course, as the Minister has all along been stating, is to have a golden handshake and ask them to work on powerlooms. That is the only way out. You are giving an objective view of all that. You are a responsible INTUC leader.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, Mr. Kulkarni has come just now. He is a very respected leader. What he is saying is correct. I don't dispute that. In the beginning I said that the DCM mill is closed. It was the Delhi Administration that opposed the closure, but the trade unions and the management decided for a closure because by closure the labour was getting Rs. 70 crores as compensation. Therefore, the labour was happy. So, such things do take place in this manner. Therefore, I have requested the Minister to please come out with a scheme of retrenchment. That scheme has not been reflected in the statement. In a general way it has been said that a scheme is being discussed. I said, let us discuss the scheme. If the labour is satisfied, there is no problem. I do agree there is surplus labour. I am not denying the fact. So, I am quite objective on that point.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: There is no future for these.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: There is some difference of opinion that composite mills do have a future, but the power-loom industry, which has come up pay wages of Rs. 400 to Rs. 700 per month with 12 hours' work per day, while the composite mills pay Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 1,500.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: This is a wrong conception. Perhaps he does not know about the ordinance issued by the Gujarat and Maharashtra Governments to keep it at par with the composite mills.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Chimanbhai says, that has not yet been implemented. That is what he wants to say.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You should get it implemented through the Government. Why don't you do it?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: That is another matter.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Why another matter?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: What I want to say is that the powerloom workers are the most exploited workers.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: No, not at all.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Kulkarniji, you may be right. He is also right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Why don't you get the ordinance implemented? My friend is talking only on the Government side.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Ordinance is there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: He is an INTUC leader. He must know that.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, this Call Attention is limited to a particular question of NTC and it does not cover the entire textile industry. But one thing is correct that the composite mills have a future only if powerlooms are also upgraded and wages are equalised till then they will face problems. There are thousands and thousands of powerlooms where tax-evasion is absolutely the rule of the day. That is how they are able to compete. So, it is for the Government to see how to find out the way for the powerlooms also. At present it is decentralised industry and gives employment. How to work them properly is another matter. So I am not going into the usual conflict between the power-looms and mills. I understand that the big mills and the composite mills are in crisis. Therefore, something has to be done about them also.

I think the textile department is not seriously seized with the problem of growing losses everyday. Three years back the losses amounted to Rs. 117 crores. Now they have risen to Rs. 266 crores. It is galloping. it has come to Rs. 1300 crores in total. By this time we have lost this much of money in NTC. Therefore, a serious introspection is required and it has to be done at high level. I was a little surprised when recently a Review Committee for Textile Policy was appointed by the Government. In that Committee not a single Member of Parliament is there. They are very much concerned with the issue. Now, naturally somebody is Chairman of that Committee. I think it is Mr. Abid Husain, a respected gentleman. I have no quarrel with him because he is in the Planning Commission. Once he was a high man in our administration. Perhaps, they don't want Members of Parliament in that Committee when somebody, IAS, chairing on that Committee. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to find another way out to include Members of Parliament. You become our Chairman and discuss with us. But there is a false notion in the Government that once a Minister becomes the Chairman, discussion and the recommendations of the Committee become almost official and Governmental.

1 P.M.

But that is not the way. We are doing it in Gujarat. Recently we had a tripartite committee and the Minister presided over that committee and we have submitted the report to the Government also and the recommendations of the committtee are not binding entirely on the Government. I feel that the Minister is also one of the important persons to participate in the discussion. Therefore, I would say, include some Members of Parliament, some central trade unionists in your consultations. Everything has to be worked out.

I do understand that once modernisation takes place, it will effect some reduction in the labour. It becomes inevitable. It burns my heart. What you will do with the surplus labour? Therefore, Government must find some way out to the issue. When you are going to retrench some workers, how you will provide them some alternative work? Once I had occasion to discuss with the Chairman of the NTC. Some tentative figure was worked out that Rs. 50,000 may be given to the worker who is retrenched and if that money is put in the bank, he would get 15 per cent interest. So, he gets around Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 per month interest. In a way it looks nice, but with the growing inflation and other things, a way for another employment has to be worked out without tears in his eyes. A legislation may be worked out.

Sir, my specific question to the hon. Minister is this: would he be prepared to have a thorough discussion with the Members of Parliament, representatives of the trade unions? The Minister should have a thorough discussion with us. You give us some paper, we will give some of our ideas. Let there be a fruitful discussion because NTC is one of the

biggest public sector undertakings with 2 lakh workers working in it. Therefore, a serious thought has to be given and we must think about labour participation also. My appeal to the trade unionists would be that we must sort out the problem as to how the labour has to be represented in that Committee. Thank you very much.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, of course, the Government has created its own quagmire from which now it finds it difficult to get out. In the statement, the Minister has informed that the N.T.C. has not taken any final decision regarding the amalgamation but is only formulating tentative proposals. Sir, 30,000, workers' future is dark and bleak. If the amalgamation which I understand from the press reports takes place, then it will not be amalgamation but annihilation of the interests of 30,000 workers. Sir, our hon. Minister, Mr. Mirdha, is a very good man. But what could he do? The Government has created Augean stable. How we could expect him to cleanse this stable? Sir, the N.T.C. received by way of capital and loans Rs. 1003 crores from the Government during the past 20 years but to little purpose. The N.T.C. continues to incur losses year after year. The mills should have been long ago, financially restructured but they were not. It is only now that this aspect of the problem facing the NTC mills is receiving attention. The N.T.C. mills are probably in a worse condition than the private sector mills. I agree, the NTC had earlier submitted a modernisation and rehabilitation plan of over Rs. 300 crores during the Seventh Plan. However, the Planning Commission had sanctioned only Rs. 117 crores. The N.T.C. has as many as 125 mills under its control, the majority of them being losing mills and badly in need of hefty dose of modernisation. Therefore, the allocation of Rs. 117 crores is also supposed to be largely used for replacement of boilers, setting up of effluent treatment plants and improving other infrastructural facilities. Therefore, there would be very little funds left for machinery modernisation. If the NTC mills are to come up as profit oriented mills, as the Government obviously wants them to be, there is no alternative but to modernise the obsolete machinery and rehabilitate the labour. For this, the NTC mills would require anything between Rs. 500 crores and Rs. 1,000 crores in the next five years. This is the demand. If you want to solve the problem or if you want to get out of the crisis without damaging the interest of the labour, you have to look into this problem from this angle. I would like to know whether any viable study has been made. You have to make a viable study. Then apply your mind, how much the Government could afford to spend for modernisation and rehabilitation? Our hon. Minister, Shri Mirdha was telling, if it is a golden handshake, if the labour is satisfied, they are happy and then you can go in for that. But will it be like that? That is a million dollar question. Sir, here our former hon. Minister of Finance, Shri N. D. Tiwari, when he presented the Budget, we had a discussion in this House and at that point of time, I made specific charges against the Government for presenting a Budget to help a particular industrial house of Bombay. You gave Rs. 250 crores of excise duty relief. Out of this, one particular industrial house got a major chunk. With facts and figures I substantiated my charge. This Government is bent upon helping one particular industrial house, Reliance. This Government believes in the theory of Reliance, not of self-reliance. This question was put to him. Mr. Tiwari is a very clever man. He knows how to tackle it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You admit that he is clever.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes, But you please listen to me. Cleverness does not certify to honesty.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please do not interrupt. He has only five to seven minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: All the burglars and looters are very clever people. That is a different thing. When Mr. Tiwari was asked this question, he repeatedly assured the textile industry that the entire relief would pass on to the consumers in the form of lower prices. Has it happened? When the question was put to the Textile Minister he said the relief would reach the consumer. The consumer, the common man, would be the beneficiary; he would get the benefits. But what has happened? I would like to get an answer from my friend, Mr. Mirdha. I do not want to embarrass him because he has already given the answer. He has already acknowledged frankly and it has appeared in the editorial of the "Financial Express", dated 17th June this year. I quote:

> Addressing the first meeting of the Committee on the Monitoring of Prices in Bombay on Monday, the Union Textiles Minister, Mr. R. N. Mirdha, very frankly acknowledged that practically no benefit has reached the ultimate consumer.

So, the consumer has not got the benefits. He is not the beneficiary. Sir, the Textile Commissioner, Mr. Arun Kumar, reportedly stated—this has also appeared in the same editorial—that additional reliefs to the industry will be considered only after it passes on to the consumer the entire relief already secured by it. Mr. Tiwari himself has..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Two minutes more.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Every time this is happening. I think there is something wrong with me. With others the Chair is considerate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I am always considerate with you. What can I do? There are still about 12 speakers. If a member is given five minutes it will mean one hour. That is why I said if we agree to skip the lunch-break.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: We have already agreed to skip the lunch-break.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Then I can give you eight to ten minutes each. Please go ahead.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Tiwari himself threatened saying that, "I shall not hesitate to withdraw the concessions wherever there is evidecne of the manufacturers taking undue advantage of these concessions. But this will not help. The withdrawal will not benefit the consumer. That is the point in this editorial. Therefore, Sir, you have helped the big industrial houses. There is a reference in the statement to the powerloom sector. Recently I visited some areas in my State where thousands and thousands of families are depending on the powerloom sector. They are totally unhappy They are in distress. They do not get the yarn at the prices they expected previously. This problem is actually too much for them. Sir, as far as the handloom sector is conecrned, nearly ten million families are depending on this sector. You reduced the rebate days from 90 to 60 and then to 45. Then you brought it further down to 30. We have been demanding that the rebate rate should be increased. What is your policy towards the handloom sector? No sector is happy according to your Textile Policy. You have decided to appoint a committee to review the Textile Policy. First you make that review. Why do you rush with your measures when you wanted to have a review? When some of the sick mills were nationalised, one particular gentleman, Mr. Rajaram Jaipuria, went to the Supreme Court claiming that the mills belonged to him and not to NTC. He lost the case in the Supreme Court. He was able to present a secret Government document, the

correspondence in the Ministry, not a published document, a secret document. He was able to produce that document in the Supreme Court. How did he get it? Is it that the Secretary, Department of Textiles, has passed it on to him? Or is it that there are people working in the department who are close to Mr. Rajaram Jaipuria? This is the point. Therefore, what my friend said was totally correct. Not only rampant corruption; there are people in important places to destroy the industry, to destroy the NTC...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now please conclude in one minute. You have taken twelve minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Therefore, once again I would like to ask the Government what steps they propose to take. You have already stated the proposals are under consideration. Their welfare, the security of the employees, should be your first concern Now, before I conclude I would like to make an accusation against this Government...†

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, you should not make such allegations. It will not go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): He cannot make such baseless allegations here. He should have the courage to prove that allegation in a law court and not use the Parliament to bring motivated aspersions on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Why should it not go on record?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You cannot make wild allegations. Can you produce evidence? Can you substantiate your allegation with proof?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: All right; I won't take the name. I will put it like this.†

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, whatever way you put it, everybody can understand it. It will not go on record. We are all intelligent. You are intelligent; I am intelligent; he is intelligent. Everybody understands it. You cannot make such wild allegations. I cannot permit it to go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There is nothing unparliamentary in my observation..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, I will not allow it. That will not go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:† What is wrong in that?....(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, no.... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is not fair on your part... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Gopalsamy, you are intelligent, I am intelligent and everybody is intelligent. What you want to convey you can do in a different way .. (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What is wrong in that? I do not take the name of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi .. (*Interruptions*) ....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Please sit down .. (*Interruptions*)

†Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Mr. Gopalsamy, don't threaten the Chair .. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This is the House where democracy should be protected and I have not said any thing unparliamentary... (*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No. Please sit down... (*Interruptions*)... All of you please sit down... (*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: †

SOME HON. MEMBERS: †

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Gopalsamy, if you want to make any charges against a particular person or a particular party, then you have to give notice to the Chairman and without that you cannot do it here.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But I have not mentioned the name of any Minister or of any political party.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It means that... (*Interruptions*) ....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You can make your own inferences .. (*Interruptions*) ....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Who framed the Budget? It is the Congress(I) Party Government.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Yes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Then you mean only that party .. (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: But is it a fact or not?... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Nothing will go on record. Please sit down. Now, Mr. Chitta Basu... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: †

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the National Textile Corporation was established in our country with a purpose of its own. It had economic purposes and also social purposes to serve. Even in our textile economy and in the national economy as a whole, the NTC occupies a very important place and this will be found from the facts which I will mention just now.

There are 125 mills under the NTC. Its installed capacity accounts for 17 per cent of the overall spinning capacity in the country and 28 per cent of the overall weaving capacity of our country. Its production in 1987-88 was estimated at 78.5 million kgs. of yarn and 721 million metres of cloth valued at about Rs. 900 crores. The NTC mills provide employment to over two lakh workers in our coutnry. Moreover, the National Textile Corporation contributes about Rs. 90 crores to the exchequer by way of Excise duty and other taxes. Therefore, these facts show that the NTC is a very important factor in the national economy of our country, particularly in the textile field. Now, it is true, though it is an unpleasant fact, that the NTC's working has not been satisfactory and has not been in tune with the objectives for which it was established. There are many reasons and I only want to catalogue three or four reasons.

The first reason is deficiency in management.

The second reason is the bureaucratic approach and attitude of the management towards the industrial workers which leads

†Not recorded.

to the deterioration in the industrial relations in the NTC mills.

The third reason is the lack of proper financial discipline.

The fourth reason, as my distinguished friend, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, has mentioned and mentioned with all vigour and with substantial arguments also, is the rampant corruption that is prevailing there.

I have some facts with me regarding...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have 8 minutes only. Your time is very much limited.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am conscious of my responsibility. Therefore, I do not want to multiply the examples of corruption. But my comment is sufficient and would have a telling effect when when I say that the NTC is submerged in or is a monument of corruption. Therefore, these are the main ailments and I believe, that these ailments can be taken care of if the Government changes its policy. By changing the policy I mean the Government should take the workers in the industry into confidence. There are various methods for involving the workers in the management, efficient management, of the NTC. Sir, instead of choosing that path or restructuring or revitalising or improving the working of the NTC, I am sorry to say the hon. Minister has taken a disastrous path. Of course, he said that he has not finally decided. But he is on track, he is on rail. I quote Mr. Mirdha himself. He said only on the 29th July last:

> "According to a study undertaken by the NTC mills, 29,859 workers had been identified as surplus..."

It is his statement. And:

> "The NTC had no plan to absorb them".

Whether you call it by way of amalgamation or by term as restructuring, the Government has the Minister of Textiles has, decided that there will be retrenchment of a large number of workers whether it is 29,999 or 70,000. I have information to suggest that it would go up to 70,000. And the retrenchment is a follow-up measure of modernisation. Sir, I do not know what is that, modernisation which leads to hunger, which leads to unemployment.

Again—I come from a State like West Bengal which is a very much disturbing factor for them—the Director-General, certainly taking a clue from the Minister, has announced through the Press that the NTC proposes to amalgamate 14 mills in West Bengal into 6 or 7 and the NTC will invest Rs. 60 crores for modernisation. And he has also said that by modernisation there will be a surplus of workers. And according to his estimate it is 7000; I have been briefed by somebody—I am not an expert—that it will be 10,000. But retrenchment would be there. Now, the cat is out of the bag. The Director-General has said in Calcutta that in that amalgamated factory they will produce only high-value textiles. By modernisation they will revive the units by relying upon the production of high-value textiles. Now, this is the policy of the Government. I accuse the policy of the Government itself. Government's policy, for some time past, has been in all spheres: Export and live. If you do not export, you do not live. If you don't export, we don't live.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): In the first paragraph, the Minister has already said that it has not been decided. It would have been better on the part of the officer if he had not given any press statement till a decision was taken by the Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: When he says that there is a proposal, this proposal is for modernisation. The object is to manufacture high-value textiles for export. I say that this is in tune with the major economic policy of the Government of India. Now, this export-oriented economy is disastrous. In a country like India we want to export high-value textiles. But what is the need? What is our domestic need? How to satisfy that need? The N.T.C. has got a sound purpose. It is the duty of the Government to provide cloth to the millions of people of this country. You will be astonished to find that in 1957, so far as I remember, there was a Kanungo Commission and a Khadi Commission. These two commissions gave their reports.

[Shri Chitta Basu]

They suggested that there should be a minimum consumption of 18 metres of cloth *per capita*. Now what is the latest figure available. The latest figure is ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You have already taken 11 minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You have interrupted me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I interrupted you only for 10 or 20 seconds. Please conclude now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I shall not take more than 5 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No. No. I cannot allow five minutes. Please conclude in one or two minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: We are spending two minutes in this way. Now it has declined to 9 metres. I was suggesting that there should be a *per capita* consumption of 18 metres of cloth in this country. But it has come down to 9 metres today. Instead of fulfilling the demands of millions of our countrymen, you are encouraging exports. The whole idea is based on export-led economy. You are not only exporting textiles, you are also exporting some yarn. That is a very important factor. The Government had entered into an agreement in 1986 under the terms of which the Government has had to export six lakh bales of cotton. There is a fall in the domestic production of cotton in our country. The Government is importing cotton at the behest of mill-owners at higher prices when our cotton growers are not getting remunerative prices. On the other hand, we find that recently the Government of India has entered into an agreement by which they are to supply yarn to the E.E.C. countries. When there is shortage in the supply of yarn to about 2.5 crore of our handloom workers, the prices of yarn are going up and yarn is not available, you have entered into an agreement with the E.E.C. countries to export yarn. This is a double-edged sword. It kills the industrial workers. It kills the cotton growers. It kills the handloom weavers. It kills the powerloom workers also. Now, what are you doing in the name of modernisation? I will give some facts to show....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No. No. Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is it unparliamentary? It is not unparliamentary.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is a question of time. You have taken 13 minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am concluding, Sir. In the name of modernisation you are accepting the negative aspect of nationalisation. By this I mean that you are going to spend Rs. 117 crores as it is found in the document of the Government for the nationalisation of the work force, for retrenchment benefits, but you are not spending a single farthing or a penny for the improvement, for the betterment of the infrastructure of the manufacturing process. Therefore, this amount of Rs. 117 crores which you propose to spend is entirely meant for creating unemployment, not for extending the employment potential. This is a disastrous policy and, I think, the Government should have a fresh thought over the matter.

Lastly Sir I demand that there should be a probe into the various scandals relating to the misappropriation of funds, misuse of power and draining or bleeding white the textile industry and the NTC as a whole. And the Government must respond to it.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I read the statement made by the Minister a number of times. He begins with assuring us that the amalgamation thing has not been finalised but has been discussed with various constituents. But his entire line of argument in the statement, the question of increasing losses, the sickness and other things including the preponderance of powerloom sector, all was

there to buttress the scheme which he says is not a final one. From the statement, it is clear that it enjoys the blessing of the Ministry even though the front is the holding company, the NTC Limited. Hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu has referred to a statement by the NTC Chairman that the amalgamated industries would produce high-valued textiles. Sir, I have with me the Objectives with which the NTC was set up, the Nationalisation Act was made. And it is this: "The objective of the acquisition is to re-organise and rehabilitate such sick textile undertakings so as to subserve the interest of the general public by the augmentation of production and distribution at fair prices of different varieties of cloth and yarn" So, Sir, by going in for or by proposing to go in for high-valued textile the provision of the Act is being fraudulently violated. You amend the Act. You have more than the required majority. And then go in for it. But you cannot do it, keeping the Act in tact as it is. Or, in that case, you will have to say that whatever may be the Act since their Government is in power, they will do whatever they like. That may be your approach. Now, in this connection in this Act, the Directive Principles of the Constitution are also referred to The question of social justice has been referred to by Shri Chitta Basu. It is hereby declared in section 37 of the Act, that this Act is for giving effect to the policy of the State towards securing the principles specified in clause (b) of article 39 of the Constitution, which reads: That the ownership and control of the material resources of the country are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. You cannot take a step otherwise by keeping the Act in tact. The Minister in his statement perhaps has taken a dig at the nationalisation itself in the third paragraph of his statement when he says that the NTC was formed to take over and manage a large number of sick textile mills characterised by obsolescence of machinery, excess labour force, bad management practices and so on. It has not been stated what has been done in these 15 years to improve the situation. A precedent has been quoted regarding the losses. Were the workers responsibe for it? Or were the public at large, who had to benefit by this Act, responsible for it or the management was responsible for it? It requires a thorough investigation. Would the Minister be prepared to investigate this matter and the allegations of corruption which have been raised here and which have been raised outside which are eating at the vitals of the organisation, this National Textile Corporation

Now, regarding the amalgamation scheme, the Minister says that it is at a discussion stage. I have with me a copy of the telegram sent by M. K. Leekha, GM (P&A), New Delhi to CMD, NTC (WBABO) Ltd. Calcutta. Therein it is stated refer your proposal for amalgamation of Manindra Mills with Bengal Textile Mills. Kindly accept resignation received at Manindra Mills. Then the next sentence, please do not issue any more weaving yarn to Manindra. If the amalgamation is at a discussion stage, how this Mr. Leekha issues this instruction to the subsidiary company? (*Time bell rings.*) (*Interruptions*) It will be seen that there has been discrimination even in the matter of amalgamation scheme. Sir, two minutes more. In West Bengal it has already been pointed out that out of 14 units under subsidiary in West Bengal, 10 will go out of existence, and in that entire subsidiary only 8 will remain out of 18 two of them in Bihar, one in Orissa and one in Assam. They have to continue unamalgamated. Out of 14 in West Bengal, ten will go out of existence in the name of amalgamation. The Act does nowhere provide for amalgamation or liquidation of the sick industries taken over by the Government. Therefore, I would put this question before the hon. Mtnister whether he would be prepared to initiate an enquiry into the causes of the continued failure of the NTC during this period to run this industry economically or ensure their viability and at the same time fulfil their objective of serving the social purpose. I would like to know whether he would be prepared to order an enquiry into the charges of largescale corrpution in the entire NTC organisation, and take necessary steps against the offending officers. I would demand of the hon. Minister and the Government to give a promise to this House that without the knowledge of the House, without a discussions in this House

[Prof. Sourendra Bhattacharjee]

or in both Houses, no final decision in the matter will be taken. And true to his own statement, the Minister should direct the NTC not to proceed in the matter any further. This direction should come from the side of the Minister if he means what he has said in his statement. Above all, it is his declaration under the Act which was passed 14 years back to effect a large-scale nationalisation to serve a social purpose, and they should not violate it knowingly or unknowingly and trample the prestige of Parliament. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Shri Kamal Morarka. Ten minutes.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): The matter is very important and I hope you will bear with me.

Sir, the statement of the Minister on this calling attention notice itself reveals that either the policy of the Government is undergoing a change without the Government taking the House into confidence, or the Government is itself unclear about its mind. One sentence which I find highly objectionable is on page 2, last paragraph. It says: "The cloth production in the mill sector has been declining and the powerloom sector, now accounts for almost half the cloth produced in the country. As a result, the composite mills even in the private sector are finding it difficult to maintain their economic viability." Does it mean we have conceded that private sector is more efficient? Since even the private sector is finding it difficult, you should not expect public sector to do any better! So the entire philosophy of the public sector, the Industrial Policy Resolution, and the solemn promises made in both Houses of Parliament are just nullified by this one sentence. Either it is a deliberate change of policy—and the House should be taken into confidence—or over the years, Government has come to understand that it is not its business to run business. And we want to know what the facts are. But be that as it may, on this specific issue of NTC, though the openink paragraph says that tentative proposals are there, but it appears from the note that they have made up their mind that spinning will remain as the main activity of NTC and may be processing, but the weaving they want to slowly phase out and leave it for handloom or powerloom sector. If that is so, why not they come out with a specific policy? What are the implications of that policy? My fundamental objection is this. If we take over the private sector units on the ground that they have become sick, we are not doing it for the sake of favouring the owners of the mills. We are doing it because we feel that production is required for the society and (b) employment should be protected. Now, Sir, in Bombay...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): (b) is first and (a) second.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You have rightly corrected me. The first thing is to protect the employment. Now, Sir, here, we find again that there is a very subtle change of policy. We are now told that all the workers of the rick mills cannot be absorbed. Statistics are given. You say that this much workers are surplus. Sir, for every single worker who is thrown out of employment, for him, it is a hundred per cent loss of job. It is not 20 per cent surplus. In Bombay, thirteen mills were taken over two or three years ago, on the eve of the Congres Centenary. It was greatly tomtomed that this was being done to protect the employment. But even today, sustantial number of workers have not been taken back. I would like to know, what is the whole concept. What are we trying to do? Somehow I feel, we have lost our way. Neither the Government nor any of us really know what we are trying to do. If we want to protect employment, let us consciously and deliberately take steps to protect employment. If on the other hand, we feel that employment is surplus because of modern technology, you need not reduce the number of workers. Modern technology would mean reduction of the number of workers. But I have got

a method. We need not reduce the number of workers. Let us increase the capacity. Let us absorb the same number of workers. There may not be any expansion in employment but there will not be any shrinkage in employment. Now, this, I must say, private sector may not be able to do. But the public sector can certainly do. If you say that you do not have the funds, you do not have the equipment, you do not have the wherewithal, who else has got it? Then, the only answer would be that we are condemning the textile industry as obsolete. But I feel, given the proper equipment, given the proper productivity, the units can still be profitable.

If we find, if the Government finds, as I see from this statement, that a very large number of units are making losses, there can be a little policy change by way of giving excise relief across the board. The Finance Ministry may say that this will result in revenue loss. But in any case there will be revenue loss if the mills are closed down Therefore, it is muddled thinking. What is required is a very objective thinking, management thinking. Zero-based budgeting is a modern concept It can be applied to the textile industry in general and the NTC in particular. Let us take one unit which is incurring losses. If you close it down, the losses will not stop. The wages of workers is a commitment which we have to meet. The overhead expenses, the interest charges, we still have to pay. What are we going to achieve by closing it down? What do we gain by closing it down? Are we incurring loss even at variable cost? No. There is a certain contribution which we have to make to meet the fixed expenses. What we need is a scientific, management, thinking within the political parameters. But I do know what your political decisions are. I am a little confused. I feel, there is a turn round There is actually a 'U' turn in the Government's policy. If you say that you are not for the public sector, it is entirely a different matter. I am going on the premise that the public sector is there; it should be run efficiently, it should be run more efficiently than the private sector.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is the declared policy of the Government. They are for the public sector.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: If that is the premise, I am afraid, the statement does not reflect it. In that case, the statement itself needs to be revised.

Now, Sir, there are certain specific areas, like, for example, managerial skill. A lot has been talked about the NTC. Complaints, irregularities, the NTC being a den of corruption; all that is there. The question is, are we imparting the required managerial skill to the NTC? The answer is 'No'. Why? Because we do not have managerial skill. An IAS officer can impose curfew in a town and stop rioting. But how can he run a textile mill? It is beyond me. What we need is a person who knows spinning, who knows marketing, who knows finance. Recently, I asked a question of the Prime Minister whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of managerial personnel in the public sector and, if so, whether it is thinking of setting up an Indian Managerial Service. But the answer I got, in the name of the Prime Minister, of course, prepared by the Department of Personnel, was: (a) No, Sir; (b) does not arise. Government is not aware of any shortage of managerial personnel. The question of creating a cadre does not arise. Every thing is perfect. The public sector is running beautifully! The Steel Authority of India is running better than TISCO; the NTC is running better than the private sector textile mills; the Scooters India is running better than Baja) Auto! There is nothing to worry! So what is required is at the root. The problem is at the root. We are trying to discuss it. Of course, I admire the Members who have spoken before me. They have spoken very knowledgeably on the textile industry. Mr. Kulkarni interrupted another Member on the very raison d'etre of composite mills. Again he is from the spinning field.

[Shri Kamal Morarka]

I want to say that there can be a deliberate policy, which may not be wrong, that powerloom and handloom should be encouraged. Probably it generates more employment. If the weaving part of the public sector mills to be closed let us absorle Those workers by increasing the spindlage, or by going into processing.

Another factor he has mentioned is about increased output of fabrics and he says: "Apart from the difficulty of findings funds for the large scale investment required for their modernisation, it may not be possible to market the increased output of fabrics in competition with the powerloom sector". Sir, if you cannot market, that means the private sector cannot market. But the private sector mills are getting the cloth woven by the powerloom sector, processing it and selling it under their own brand name. Why can the NTC not do it?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What is wrong in that?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Nothing is wrong. You should do it. My submission is, what is wrong in it is that you are not doing it? My submission is that the public sector should be a model employer. It is not our job to throw people out of employment. That is the easiest thing to do. What we must do is treat the worker as an asset. There are trade unions, maybe mill-wise maybe as a whole. Let us sit down with them. Let us encourage those workers to make their cooperatives and have their own powerlooms. I have no objection to that. In that case, it is not retrenchment because then they get their terminal dues and they get continuity of work. My objection is when the land sharks look at the mill land in Bombay and they calculate and say let us sell this land and pay the workers off. Yes, on paper it looks very good. But I want to know to whom does Bombay belong? Does it belong to the people who are living in multi-storeyed buildings or does it belong to those workers? They were the first inhabitants of Bombay. Lal Bagh and Parel were the first areas in Bombay, not the Nariman Point.

Sir, what I am trying to say is that the whole system has become dehumanised. We want to remove the slums and make multi-storeyed buildings, without realising that the people staying in the slums do not want to stay in the multi-storeyed buildings. That may be your concept of happiness. They want water, they want drainage, they want facilities in those slums. They are happy. They want employment. What we are trying to say is, we will make you happy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: You do not want us to give them these facilities?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You want to give them facilities which you think are better. You want to remove their slums. You want to give the building to a multi-storey fellow and tell him, "you move into that building" which he cannot, and take away his employment. For a worker in Bombay, textile industry is the mother industry. It is easy to blame Dr. Datta Samant and say that he has ruined the textile industry in Bombay. The fact remain that the Bombay Textile industry has been ruined by the inhuman approach of the Government If you give a textile worker who has been working for 20 or 30 years a salary of Rs. 700 in the Bombay city and he is staying in a chawl where a worker staying next to him is getting Rs. 2000 from a chemical factory, why should he accept Rs. 700? And if you talk of increasing their wages, they say, the units are not viable. The units are not viable because of inefficiency. They need re-structuring I am not against that. But re-structuring will have to be within the parameters of protecting employment.

Secondly, on the general textile policy, I want to take a few minutes. The other aspect is of the cotton growers. If you come to this, the basic high cost will be of cotton. And in the end, again, it is the Cotton Corporation of India whose payment to the farmer is far 2.00 P.M less. What they charge the mills, whether NTC or private sector mills is exorbitant.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Why don't you support our cotton monopoly scheme ?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: And that margin is so high that it increases the cost of cotton. Yet the Cotton Corporation of India is making a loss.

The Cotton Corporation of India should disappear from the scene if you want the textile industry to come up. Again, if I say that the Cotton Corporation of India should go, people will say that I am talking against the public sector. I humbly submit, Sir, that it is corporations like the Cotton Corpoartion and NTC which are bringing a bad name to the public sector. What is required is efficient management. Let us sit down with the people who are interested in the textile industry and find a way out. That is my submission. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Narayanasamy. Ten minutes—not more than ten minutes.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, there is no double standard maintained by the honourable Members of this House when they say that the textile industry, especially the NTC, is in a crisis. I have seen accusations and hurling of charges by honourable Members of this House, especially from the Opposition, about the working of the NTC. But, have the honourable Members seen what kind of stress and strain is there on the NTC?

Sir, the NTC came into existence when actually there was desertion on the part of the private management from running the mills and thereby making the mills sick. Government came to their rescue and the NTC was authorized to take over the mills. It is not viable units that were taken over by the NTC.

How were the mills made sick by private management? They were diverting the funds which they had to utilize for improving the capacity of the mills and to earn profit. The private management, after seeing that they would not get more profits, diverted the funds for other purposes and deliberately made the mills sick. Therefore, the burden is on the Government of not only making the mills viable but also keeping the labour working there.

There are various reasons why the number of sick mills are growing in our country. One is, the capacity in our country to manufacture cloth is more compared to the demand in the country. An obsolete technology which was adopted over a hundred years ago is another reason. Thirdly, we have not compromised with the labour for the purpose of rationalization. Still there are heavy demands and pressure on the management of NTC. When they reduce the labour, there are processions, demands, strikes, lockouts and so on. The fourth reason is, the funds provided by the Government to the NTC mills are not even 17 per cent of their demands. They wanted Rs. 1,000 crores for modernization but the Government provided only Rs. 173 crores. With that the entire mills have to run and NTC has to divert funds for modernization of the mills taken over by them.

Sir, if we see other countries of the world where the textile industry is flourishing, we find that they have got shuttleless looms. Then they have long frames which are nowadays liked by consumers. Nowadays we have to go by the taste of the consumers. Then, they have resorted to multi-fibre textiles; they have got so many varietes of fibres. But we are harping on cotton alone and 70 per cent of our mills are based on cotton. So, we have not come out of the red and we could not compete in the international market. Apart from this authorizedly and also by smuggling, nearly Rs. 3,000 crores worth of textiles are coming into India. These are the various factors which are creating a crisis in our textile industry. We can't blame the NTC alone for all this. The NTC has shouldered the responsibility and it is doing the job. Naturally it is going on at a loss, but how to improve the system? There should be suggestions from the hon. Members for it. I congratulate the hon. Minister for coming with an open statement before this House. It is also admitted by the Minister very clearly that the textile policy was not working well and therefore a committee was appointed to review the situation. But I agree with the hon. Members on the question of management. Take the case of my own State. There are three composite mills in my State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have visited there.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, Sir. As a Member of the Public Undertakings Committee, the hon. Vice-Chairman also visited one of the mills. One of the Mills was deserted by the private management called Anglo-French Textile Mill. Then our Prime Minister was kind enough to give Rs 12 crores to the State to take it over. Within two years they made Rs. 2 crores of profit with that mill. But kindly see two mills which have been taken over by the NTC—Bharati Mill and the Swadeski Cotton Mill. Bharati mill was started about one hundred years ago and the Swadeshi Cotton Mill was started 130 years ago. What the management is doing there? In the name of nationalisation they have sent 50 per cent of the workers out of employment. They have been breaking the frames and removing them, but for replacing it they are taking two to three years. I agree that we have to compromise when the question of rationalisation comes. The work force has to be reduced and modern machines have to come in. While the old machines are being removed, the new ones are not being installed. Rs. 8/- crores were given to the Swadeshi Cotton Mill. This has been taken over by the Coimbatore Mills. Even in the Bharati Mill the processing unit was started. This was a Rs. 5/- crore project. This processing unit is also running at a loss. It is only because of the bad management. I have been told by Mr. Kamal Morarka, that IAS Officers who are there, they go through the files, but don't know the financial management. They don't know how to have an efficient management. IAS Officers become Managing Director-cum-Chairman and they do their job according to the files only and do not see what is going on in the field.

Now, I come to another aspect. In one particular department of a composite mill the workers are less but the managerial persons are more. Is it modernisation? Modernisation should mean that you have efficient administration and efficient functioning with better skilled labour. But the Managerial staff are increasing because of the bureaucracy. That has to be curbed. Here I would like to say that the NTC has started the modernisation process. Secondly, the NTC has been manufacturing the Janata cloth which is helping the common man. Thirdly they have opened an export scheme, which is actually a record. When there is excess capacity, they look to the foreign market. Fourthly, because of all this the cost of the unit has been reduced to a certain extent. These are the advantages of the NTC.

I am not here to support the NTC for running at a loss. I am one of those who want the public sector to thrive. The private sector should not be given benefit at its cost.

Now I would like to speak on another important aspect, about the tax concessions. Tax concessions to the NTC on the textile sector alone is not sufficient. That is also the main reason for the sufferings of the textile industry in this country.

As my previous speaker has said, when the workers are retrenched they should be given some alternative avenues of employment. Take the case of an employee who has put in 30 years of service in a mill and if he is retrenched, he gets Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000 from the management under the retrenchment scheme. What he will do with this Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000? What will happen to his future, particularly, if he is a young man? He cannot start his livelihood with Rs. 40,000? If he gets some Rs. 2-3 lakhs he will be able to establish his business. Therefore, the cooperative societies in the powerloom have to be improved and utilised. As I said earlier, the hon. Minister should pay more attention for efficient and better management system because managerial cost is increasing. The managerial cost of any textile industry which is run by NTC is increasing in this country. That is causing heavy burden on NTC mills. I suggest to the hon. Minister for finding a way to provide alternative employment to those employees who have been retrenched by starting powerlooms for which a liberal policy is to be adopted by the Government. Thank you.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the textile industry is complex in nature and confounded in its problem. The industry has a unique place in the economy of the country. The textile industry constitutes 20 per cent of the total industrial output providing employment to millions of workers. Sir, there is no difference of opinion about the present condition of the textile industry. Even today the FICCI has clearly stated that the sickness in textile sector is widespread and its share of outstanding has gone from 30 to 34.5 per cent within one year. Sir, there are 1029 textile mills in the country with an installed capacity of 26.10 million spindles and 2108 lakh powerlooms. It is estimated that 63 per cent of spindles and 83 per cent of powerlooms are 15 years old. Therefore, modernisation is quite imperative and we should rise to the occasion. Sir, out of 1027 textile mills, 25 mills are under cooperatives and 170 mills are under NTC and State Textile Corporations and the rest are with the private sector. According to the statistics given by our Government up to end of November, 1987, 133 mills are closed, nearly 2 lakhs of people have been thrown out of employment. Perhaps, the data given by the Government may not be correct because in Tamil Nadu, the Government has taken action only in case 24 mills and it has excluded small textile mills. They are more than 20. Nearly 41 mills are closed in Tamil Nadu. But in the record they have shown only 21 mills.

Sir, 20,000 employees have been affected by the closure of these mills. These mills were closed since 1982. Despite our earnest effort from the State Government during the period of Dr. MGR there has been no positive response or financial help from the Centre. The State Government proposed joint management but the Centre refused to give any financial help through RBI. At the same time, the Centre has not come forward to undertake the mills by NTC. But whenever there is a demand from Maharashtra or there is a demand from Gujarat, there is an immediate and positive response from the Centre. But if there is a demand from our State, we as usual, get the stepmotherly treatment from the Central Government. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what steps or what proposals are under the consideration of this Government to open those mills. At least, during the period of M.G.R., some relief amounts were given to the affected workers at the rate of Rs. 300/- or 500/-. But no relief amount is extended from the Centre. Then I would like to know from the hon. Minister what relief measures are to be provided to the workers till these mills are opened? Sir, the Government, as I said, is very partial in taking the sick mills under the N.T.C. It must be based on certain principles. A scheme mooted by our State Government has not been accepted by the Central Government. I would like to know from the Minister, at least, in future, whether the Government at the Centre will come forward to examine and extend support to the scheme sponsored by our State Government. Sir, we are very particular about the modernisation of the sick mills. We accept modernisation without affecting the interest of the labour. We are not for modernisation which affects the employment opportunities because employment opportunities are of vital importance in the industry. Sir, as stated by Mr. V. Narayanasamy and others, adequate financial help is not provided to the sick mills because the total requirement of money for production is Rs. 210.68 crores but the financial sanction is only Rs. 153.75 crores leaving a gap of Rs. 56.57 crores. Similarly, the requirement of the margin money is Rs. 136.41 crores but the Government has sanctioned Rs. 63.33 crores leaving a gap of Rs. 72.89 crores. Inadequate help of the Government increased the sickness in the industries. Sir the steps so far taken by the NTC or the Central Government are not adequate. Last year, as mentioned by our hon. Minister, the loss in the industry under the NTC is Rs. 266 crores. The total loss calculated is Rs. 1631 crores out of which, it is reported, Rs. 971 crores have been reimbursed by the State Governments. Sir, despite all these facilities, helps and grants, we see sickness in the industry. I am much disappointed with the statement of the Minister.

[Shri Aladi Aruna *alias* V. Arunachalam]

He has not at all mentioned anything about the handloom sector. Sir, I would like to know whether our Government has extended any help and facilities to this sector. The Handloom sector is more important but we have not given adequate facilities and grants to the handloom sector. We know well, more than 1 crore of people are involved in this Nearly 38 lakhs of looms were available in India. 30 per cent of the production is under the Handloom sector. Despite all these things we have not extended adequate help to the Handloom sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the per capita income of the poor weavers? Let the Minister tell the fact to the House. Then alone, we can understand the gravity of the situation. Sir, the Handloom sector is an unorganised sector. It is not only unorganised one but it is unattended and unaided one. Sir, there are various scheme. For instance, the Blended Cloth Scheme, Workshop-cum-Housing Handloom Weavers Scheme, Thrift Fund Scheme, Pre-looms and Post-looms Processing Facility Scheme, Fair Capital Assistance Scheme. These schemes are not at all helpful to solve the problems of the handlooms weavers. At the same time, in other areas like Khadi and cottage industry, it has been increased. Therefore I repeatedly ask the Minister to restore the number of rebate days at least to 60.

Now, a committee has been constituted to review the progress of the implementation of the Textile Policy. I went through the list of members of that committee. I am very sorry to mention that adequate representation has not been given to the handloom sector. Only the Handloom Weavers Society has been nominated. Representation from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and U. P. is more important to find out the gravity of the situation. Sir, they claim that they have increased the production of cloth and all that. But it is quite pathetic that in 1974, the per capita consumption of cloth was 14.60 metres; in 1980, 14.97 metres; and then in 1986, 15.01 metres. The latest figure is, in 1986 it was 15.01 metres. But at the end of the Second Five-Year Plan it was 16 yards. You see the difference between metre and yard. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a constant per capita consumption of cloth. Why is there no adequate increase in the consumption of cloth?

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will start asking my clarifications. The Hon. Minister has said, in paragraph 7 of the statement that in any such scheme of amalgamation and restructuring of the NTC, the Government would always accord high priority to the protection of the interests of workers. The NTC was formed with the intention of helping sick mills. It has always gone to the rescue of sick mills. Even in cases where private managements were unable to run their mills, it had gone to their rescue. Now those mills are functioning profitably. I am really proud to say that so many mills which were running on loss and were taken over by the NTC are now making profits. In my own place, Nanded, there was a mill running on loss. It was taken over in 1962 by the NTC. Now it is making profits. Like that there are so many mills.

However, there are some lacunae in the administration. There are some cases of corruption and mismanagement. I request the Minister, through you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, to appoint a committee to find out the exact reasons for the losses in NTC-run mills.

*I now come to the problems of Maha*rashtra. Maharashtra is one of the States having a very high number of textile mills. We have 112 textile mills and the total number of workers is 1,95,000. The number of mills in Bombay alone is 60. There are 11 sick mills in Maharashtra. In regard to those mills about 21,775 workers are now suffering because of the closure of the mills. The greatest problem before

the Government is, what to do with these workers. The mill owners are not interested in running the mills because, as you know, the price of land...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please do not go on arguing. Tell him what he should do.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: As Mr. Kamal Morarka said, the land prices have gone up. If you release the land, they will happily close down the mills and sell the land and take huge profits. The Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra should never allow the mill owners to do such things and they should take care of the interest of the workers. I request the honourable Minister through you. These are the sick mills: Mukhesh Textile Mills, Badge Textile Mills, Srinivasa Cotton Mills, Rajendra Textile Mills, Kiran Spinning Mills, Amraoti Co-operative Spinning Mills, Modern Mills, New Great Eastern Mills, Raja Ram Bahadsur Mills, Pune, Lok Manya Bharati—these are the sick mills. And 21,775 workers are suffering for the last six years. I would request the Minister to take away these mills and run them through NTC. Please take over the sick mills for NTC and allot them to cooperative societies. In Maharashtra there are workers' cooperative societies. They are ready to form cooperative societies and they want to run those mills. We have experience of the co-operative sector in sugar industry, even in spinning mills in Kichar Karanji. My senior friend Apasaheb Kulkarni is also sitting here. The spinning mills cooperative society is being run at the maximum profit. Maharashtra is a competent State. Whichever mills you find sick, you allow Government of Maharashtra to form cooperative societies for them. If you give all facilities to those cooperative societies, I am sure Maharashtra Government will make them all right.

There are about four lakh powerlooms in the country. This is a very important sector. The problem here is there are some authorised powerlooms and some unauthorised powerlooms. In the new Textile Policy which the Government of India has declared, it has equated powerlooms with composite mills thus placing powerlooms in a disadvantageous position with regard to excise duty and other concerned financial concessions. Powerlooms are quite a different category. They cannot be compared with composite mills. You must give powerlooms the excise and other concessions.

Handloom mills are also in a bad state. You have to give a special kind of relief to the handloom sector. (*Time bell rings.*)

I come to my last point, modernisation of mills. In other countries they are having modern, advanced, technology; whether it is textile industry or any other industry before their technology becomes outdated, they are ready with modern technology, advanced technology. Every five years, ten years, their technology keeps changing to more and more modern technology. But in our country our textile mills, our handloom sector, our powerloom sector, they still continue with the same outdated technology which they had forty years ago or a hundred years ago. We are continuing with the same machinery. Our machinery has outlived its utility; its capacity has gone down. Even in charkha there is improvement and advancement but our machinery remains the same. So we must make advances in our machinery and equipment, we must modernise it, every ten years, fifteen years. Modifications and advancements must be made in our mills from time to time. Then only we can give a new base to our textile industry.

Now a word about spinning mills. We are having the problem of 11 cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra. Eleven cooperative spinning mills have been sanctioned by the Government of India. Later on the Government of India found that we did not require any spinning mills. But the Government of Maharashtra and the spinning mills have collected the share capital; Maharashtra

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

Government has given Rs. 6 crores; Rs. 30 crores have been spent already. But the Government of India is putting obstacles in their way. I request the Minister to arrange loans from IDBI or other financial institutions to these eleven cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra. Please do this for Maharashtra and Maharashtra farmers will definitely be grateful to you.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): The textile industry in the country is the mother-industry and the textile sector involves about 3 to 4 crores of cotton growers, one crore of weavers and one million powerlooms. It involves one-fourth of the entire economic activity of the country. But I wonder whether there is any textile policy at all with the Government of India? It is only adhocism they have. They are adopting some quixotic and lopsided attitude towards the textile industry. I wonder why the National Textile Corporation is incurring losses? You know, eight metres of cloth is produced some one kg. of cotton which costs about Rs. 160/- and out of this the poor cotton grower of Guntur and Prakasam districts gets only Rs. 16/-. There is so much of disparity, there is wide disparity, between the cost of raw material and the cost of the finished product. I fail to understand how or why the NTC is incurring losses, particularly when the NTC is under the Textile Ministry. The NTC is a baby of the Textile Ministry? There is another baby called the Cotton Corporation of India.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): It is an adopted baby.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Whatever it is, there is some tussle or duel going on between these two Corporations, between the National Textile Corporation and the Cotton Corporation of India, for making payments for the cotton supplied, as was reported in the "Economic Times" of the 1st of this month. There is another baby by name, the Cotton Advisory Board and that Board estimates the figures about the availability of cotton, production and consumption including exports from this country. But, Sir, I am sorry to note that the Cotton Advisory Board is not having any figures at all with it. They are solely depending for the figures on the textile industry, the Cotton Association of India as well as the East India Cotton Association. But I am sorry to say that neither the Commissioner of Textiles nor the Ministry is having the figures.

The Ministry is lacking entirely in a long range policy as far as the textile industry is concerned. Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha took charge in 1986 and immediately after he took over charge, he told that this country was even prepared to export about ten lakh bales of cotton for the next three years. But this policy was immediately changed within three or four months. It is a dictum with the Government of India, as soon as the harvesting season begins, to come out with a statement in the month of September that the Government will be allowing imports so that it will create an atmosphere of psychological scare among the growers that there will be a glut and slump in the cotton market and, consequently, the cotton growers would be compelled to part with their produce at a throw-away price. But, during the sowing season, the Government will come out with a statement that the country is having a scarcity and yet they will have to export also. They will make this sort of an announcement so that farmers would be compelled to grow more and more of cotton, ultimately to sell it to the mill owners at throw-away prices. This practice is going on still.

Sir, the New Textile Policy was announced in June 1985. In that policy, they have mentioned that the preeminence of cotton would be maintained in the country and the per capita availability of cloth would be enhanced. They also mentioned that remunerative prices to the cotton growers would be paid and all the mills would be running to their full capacity and this and that. All these things they had mentioned in that policy statement. But, alas! All these

announcements have proved to be false because the per capita availability of cotton has come down, the number of sick mills has increased, the number of the unemployed persons in the mills has increased, the cotton growers in our districts are committing suicides. More than thirty people have committed suicides both in Prakasam and Guntur districts. But, at the same time, the Government of India is advancing about Rs. 750 crores as soft loans for the modernization of the mills at the rate of four per cent by way of interest and repayable in twenty years and they are also running to the World Bank to get another Rs. 400 crores to feed the textile industry. But for the cotton growers they are not doing anything and this is what is going on in the country now. As far as exports are concerned, I am sorry to state, the foreign buyer finds our bales not only containing substandard material, but also having reduced weight. Also, in some of the bales, Sir the foreign buyers have found sankes, rats, snails, rags, chappals and other such things. And these foreign buyers brought these things to the notice of the Government of India. I do not know what action has been taken. And they say that the pre-eminence of cotton will be maintained. But contrary to that, artificial fibre is given lot of reliefs and with the encouragement of the Government people like Reliance climbed up the ladder to the 4th place in the country. During 1988 the hon. Minister announced the formation of a committee to review the entire textile policy and to give a new shape, headed by Mr. Abid Hussain. This morning I enquired about this committee, what happened to this committee and whether the committee met at all. But I am sorry to state that for the last three months no meeting took place. Mr. Abid Hussain was not provided with a list of members. He went round every office and caught hold of list of members. No policy framework....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Meeting hogaya.... (*Interruptions*) You don't know.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Let the Minister clarify.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Let the Minister clarify. This thing is going on. Several times we mentioned in this House as well as outside to import three pesticides named Trisophos, Methomyl (Lannate) and Fenprophtharin (Danital). But this was not allowed. In spite of that the cotton growers and others are compelled to use certain other pesticides which were banned in all the advanced countries. But in collusion with the multinationals these pesticides are dumped in this country, and because of that the farmers are committing suicides in Andhra Pradesh.

I made a special mention in this House on the 27th April. But I am sorry to state that over the last three months the Minister could not find time to answer that special mention about the grievances of cotton growers. I am very much afraid that if this attitude of the Government continues there is no reason why should not we feel that cotton growers are neglected. ..(*Time bell rings*) We feel that they have not got any long-range programme or long-range vision about the textile policy. I appeal to this House, through you, Sir, to plead with the Minister to see that something is done as far as the textile policy is concerned. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Vaghela. 8—10 minutes.

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA (GUJARAT): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, in the statement, in paragraph 2 the Minister says:

> "I would, however, like to share with the House Government's serious concern about the increasing losses of NTC Over the years NTC has incurred...."

I say, Sir, the Government is not serious at all.

> "Over the years NTC has incurred a cumulative loss of Rs 1331 crores and during 1987-88 the net loss is of the order of Rs. 266 crores. The present trend is disquieting and points towards further increase in losses."

[Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela]

Sir, this NTC, National Textile Corporation, I say, is 'National Textile Corruption'. I here demand CBI inquiry into the conduct of officers, especially the concerned NTC Chairman, all Directors and the whole textile secretariat. All this loss is due to mismanagement and due to corrupt practices.

In paragraph 3, the Minister says:

". . .sick textile mills characterised by obsolescence of machinery, excess labour force, bad management practices and so on."

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बैड मैनेजमैंट के बारे में आज तक जितनी भी मिलें सिक हुई हैं, उसके लिये आपने मैनेजमैंट के ऊपर क्या कार्यवाही की है और कितनी मिलों के मालिक आर्थिक बीमार बने ? कितने लोगों ने अपने बंगले छोड़कर फ्लैट में रहना शुरु किया, कितने लोगों ने अपनी टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री छोड़कर दूसरी इंडस्ट्री या मिलों में चले गए और अपने रहने का ढंग बदला या अपनी इकानामिक नैसेसिटीज में कमी की ? सरकार ने ऐसे मिस मैनेजमैंट के लिये क्या ऐक्शन लिया ?

वाइस चेयरमैन साहब इसमें बेसिक बात टैक्सटाइल पालिसी की है हमारी टैक्सटाइल पालिसी में कोई भयंकर गड़बड़ है कि इसमें टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री पूरी की पूरी कहीं न कहीं सिक होती जा रही है और दूसरे मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि प्राइवेट इंडस्ट्री अच्छी चलती हैं इनको आप स्टडी करिये कि इसमें क्या अच्छाई है और हमारे में क्या बुराई है । टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री चाहे वे कोटन कारपोरेशन आफ इंडिया हो चाहे वह एनटीसी हो इसमें क्या खरावी , बेसिक खराबी क्या है जिससे ये लांस में चलती है। प्राइवेट की बात हो रही है तो प्राइवेट लोगों के पास तो मिलें थीं । जब प्राइवेट लोगों के पास से ये सिक यूनिटस बनीं तब गवर्नमेंट ने टेकओवर किया । गुप्ता जी बता रहे थे कि रिलयंस और बाम्बे डाइंग अगर लोगों के हित देखकर लेने को तैयार हैं तो दे दीजिए। लेबर प्रोब्लम्स अगर दूर हो सकती है तो एन. टी.सी. को भी प्राइवेट को दे दीजिए । इसमें कोई खराबी नही है । अगर ऐसा ही चल रहा है जैसा कि आप कह रहे हैं कि लासेज कंपनी काम नही होने हैं तो आप उनको देकर देख लीजिए । अगर कोई अच्छा कम्पीटेटिव यूनिट लेने को तैयार है लेबरर्स की जिम्मेदारी के साथ तो दे दीजिए इसमें को चिंता की बात नही है। जब सिक शब्द आता है तो उसमें गवर्नमेंट की सिक की डेफिनीशन क्या होती है ? मेडिकल लैंग्वेज में भी सिक कीएनालोसिज होती है। डाक्टर अपना अनुमान करता है कि इसमें कैंसर की सम्भावना है या टी.बी. की संभावना है । अगर आप भी सिक इंडस्ट्री की इसी तरह एनालीसिज करें कि हमारी इंडस्ट्री को कैंसर होने वाला है क्या ? यह कभी जिंदा होने वाली नहीं है ? अगर जिंदा होने वाली नहीं है तो ऐसी सिक यूनिट को आप मार डालिये । इसको जिंदा रखने की कोशिश मत करिय । अगर जिंदा रखते हैं तो मजदूरों के लिये तो मैं समझता हू कि मजदूरों का तो वही हाल रहेगा। भला दूसरों का ही होगा । सब मैम्बरों ने कहा करप्ट आफिसर्स इसमें हैं । मजदूरों के नाम पर अपना फायदा लेते हैं । यही सिक यूनिट करने वाले हैं । इसलिए कहता हूं कि इसका बोझ प्रजा के ऊपर मत डालिये । ऐसी यूनिट्स को आप खत्म करिये तो अच्छा हैं ।

इसमें मैं पढ़ रहा था स्वदेशी मिल गाजियाबाद को 8 करोड़ का फायदा हुआ । इसका मालिक है मिस्टर जयपुरिया । नवभारत टाइम्स की कटिंग मेरे पास है। इसमें लिखा है उत्पादन लगातार बढ़ रहा है लेकिन उसका मुनाफा तेजी से घट रहा है। 86 में मुनाफा 10 करोड़ 10 लाख था।87 में 6 करोड़ से 23 लाख रह गया। 88 में पहली छमाई में 1 करोड़ 80 लाख रह गया। जानकारी के मुताबिक स्वदेशी पालिक्स को मई में 20 लाख रुपये

का घाटा हुआ और इतना ही घाटा जून में हुआ है। 10 करोड़ का मुनाफा कमाने वाला यूनिट तीन साल में माइनस में चली गयी तो इसकी क्या वजह है। इस कम्पनी के अंदर जितने घोटाले हैं शायद आपको मालूम नहीं। अगर आप कहें तो मेरे पास रिकार्ड है मैं रख सकता हूं। इसमें कौन इनवाल्व था। यह भी मैं बता सकता हूं। प्रजा का पैसा मार कर मालिक को दिया गया। इनको देने की क्या जरूरत थी। मैं कहता हूं कि स्वदेशी मिल की इंक्वायरी होनी चाहिए कि वह क्यों घाटे में चल रही है। उस आदमी का तबादला किया गया। तबादले में ही सरकार के कितने रुपये चले गए उस के पास इसलिए इसकी इंक्वायरी होनी चाहिए।

हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी 1984 में जब गुजरात में चुनाव के दौरे पर गये थे तब यह कहा था मजदूरों की मैं मिल चालू करवाऊंगा। पालिटिकल स्पीच थी। वोट लेने थे मजदूरों के....

श्री विठ्ठल भाई मोतीराम पटेल (गुजरात) : उन्होंने चालू करवाने के लिए नहीं कहा था।

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : मजदूरों को जिंदा रखेंगे ऐसा कोई स्कीम प्रधान मंत्री ने कही थी। हम 88 में चल रहे हैं लेकिन वहां अभी तक कोई डवलपमेंट नहीं हुआ है। उसमें और भी पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंगस का मामला है। प्रधान मंत्री जी पब्लिक एंटरप्राइसेज के लिये व्हाइट पेपर रखने जा रहे हैं तो मैं चाहूंगा कि एन०टी०सी० के बारे में भी पूरा विवरण उसमें आये। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूं कि इसका भी उल्लेख हो कि एन०टी०सी० कहां जा रहा है जिससे लोगों को पता लगे।

गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र की बात चली। हमारा अहमदाबाद हिन्दुस्तान का मानचेस्टर था। आज क्या हालत है। 50 हजार मजदूर वहां मर रहे हैं। 25 प्राइवेट मिलें बंद हैं। एक मिल तीन शिफ्टें चलाती थी अब उसको दो शिफ्टें बंद करनी पड़ी। अब केवल एक शिफ्ट काम कर रही है। वहां के 25 हजार मजदूर और बेकार हो गये है। वहां के जो मजदूर है वे सुसाइड करने लगे हैं। पागल हो गये है। बहनें वैश्यागिरी करती हैं। बच्चों की पढ़ाई बंद हो गयी है। बरतन बेच-बेच कर, सोना जो उनके पास एक तोला या दो तोला उनके पास पड़ा था उनको बेच कर अपना गुजारा कर रही है। मजदूरों की हालत खराब हो गयी है। 50 हजार से ज्यादा लोग अनएम्पलाइड हो गये हैं। सोर्स आफ इन्कम जीरो है। यह किस की जिम्मेदारी है? अगर इस जिम्मेदारी को लेकर आप टेकओवर करते हैं तो ठीक है। मजदूरों की हालत मिल बंद होने के समय जैसी थी वैसी ही अब है। इसमें कोई फर्क नहीं आया।

दूसरे मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि स्टेट में जो एन.टी.सी. के चेयरमैन रखते हैं जैसे हमारे यहां मिस्टर चेट्टी हैं उनका बम्बई बेस है। आप जानते हैं कपड़े के लिए अहमदाबाद फेमस है। सारा कपड़ा दूसरी दूसरी जगहों पर जाता है। अहमदाबाद के व्यापारी कैश पेमेंट देने के लिए तैयार है और गुजरात बाहर के व्यापारी हफ्ता से पैसा देते हैं। अहमदाबाद का व्यापारी 13 रुपये 30 पैसे कपड़ा पालिएस्टर फेबरिक का देने को तैयार है लेकिन मिस्टर चेट्टी 11 रुपये 80 पैसे एक मीटर पर देने को तैयार हैं यानी ढाई रुपये लैस देने को तयार है। इससे लाखों रुपए का नुकसान होगा। किस को होगा? ऐसे अफसर रख दिये जाते हैं जिनका अटेचमेंट वहां के लोकल लोगों से नहीं होता। उनको तबदील कर दीजिए। जिनका वहां से अटेचमेंट हो उनको वहां भेज दीजिए। जो महाराष्ट्र का हो उसे महाराष्ट्र में रखे और जो आन्ध्र का हो उसे आन्ध्र में रखिये। स्टेट में ऐसे अफसरों को रखिये जिनका उस स्टेट के लोगों से अटेचमेंट हो और नहीं तो पूरा का पूरा व्यापार कहीं और चला जायेगा। यह आपको देखना चाहिए।

[श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला]

आखिर में एक बात है। हमारे टेक्सटाइल मंत्रालय है। इनके माननीय मंत्री जी ने एक-एक करके 1331 करोड़ रुपये आज तक लगाये। क्या आपके पास ऐसी कोई मशीनरी, स्कीम, है जिसमें इन-टोटल एन टी. सी. को ठीक करने के लिए यह कहा जाय कि इतने करोड़ रुपये लगाने हैं। नहीं है तो आपके पास योजना मंत्री बैठे हैं उनसे कह कर प्लानिंग करिये कि एन. टी. सी. में एक हजार करोड़ लगना है और आप 500 करोड़ भी देने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। साल-ब-साल आपका घाटा 1300 करोड़ रुपये बढ़ रहा है। अगले साल 2 हजार हो जायेगा। अगर आप को ठीक करना है तो फाइनेंस की डिमांड करिये कि इतना रुपया चाहिए टेक्स्टाइल मिल ठीक करने के लिए। क्या आपके पास कोई आंकड़ा है कि कितने रुपये से हमारी एन. टी. सी. ठीक होगी ? दूसरे मैं उन अफसरों के खिलाफ भी सी. बी. आई. इंक्वायरी की डिमांड करता हूं।

साथ ही यह कहता हूं कि एन.टी.सी. में जो गड़बड़ है इसके लिए पार्लियामेटरी कमेटी होनी चाहिए। क्योंकि यह बोफोर्स से भी ज्यादा घोटाले वाली बात है। उसमें 65 करोड़ का था जबकि इसमें 1331 करोड़ का मामला है। 50 परसेंट सही से चले भी गये होंगे फिर भी 500 करोड़ के लगभग का घपला है। इसके लिए पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी की इंक्वायरी की मांग करता हूं। इसी के साथ मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि सही टेक्सटाइल पालिसी को लेकर दीन-दुखी मजदूरों के लिये उनमें सुधार लाइये। जनता का रुपया जो फैला हुआ है वह कन्वर्ट करके करप्ट अफसर्स की जेबों में जा रहा है उसको रोकिये। साथ ही इसमें इंक्वायरी कराइये। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार): मान्यवर मुझे खुशी है कि सरकार ने टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन की खामियों के बारे में और इसकी कमियों के बारे में सदन में बहस करना स्वीकार किया। टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन की गड़बड़ियों और इसकी लूट और इसके मिसमेनेजमेंट के बारे में इतने सहज ढंग से अनुमान नहीं लगाया जा सकता है जितने सहज ढंग से मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में यहां कहां है। बहुत बड़ी साजिश के तहत तमाम सरकारी क्षेत्रों के उद्योगों में घाटा दिखाया जा रहा है। इसके पीछे बहुत बड़ी साजिश है। इसमें नेशनल टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन अकेला सरकारी क्षेत्र नहीं है, बल्कि जितने भी सरकारी क्षेत्र हैं, चाहे कोयला उद्योग हो या इस्पात उद्योग हो या शिपिंग हो, सरकार के जो बड़े बड़े अफसर हैं, नौकर-चाकर हैं, ये सब मिलकर घाटा लगाते हैं, लूटते हैं और लूट करके घाटा लगाते हैं। इनकी साजिश पूंजीपतियों से होती है। देश के पूंजीपति हर क्षेत्र के उद्योगों में साजिश करते हैं, चाहे कपड़ा उद्योग हो, चाहे कोयला उद्योग हो। हमारे देश में सरकारी क्षेत्र के साथ साथ निजी क्षेत्र भी हैं। इन लोगों की यह साजिश रहती है कि इस समाजवादी कदम को फेल कर दिया जाय, असफल कर दिया जाय। जब इस देश में सरकारी क्षेत्र का दायरा बढ़ने लगा तो निजी क्षेत्र के पूंजीपति घबराने लगे और उनको यह डर व्याप्त हो गया कि आहिस्ता आहिस्ता सारा उत्पादन सरकारी क्षेत्र में चला जाएगा। इसलिए पूंजीपतियों और जो ब्यूरोक्रेट्स बैठे हुए हैं, जो बड़े बड़े चेयरमैन और मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर्स हैं, सब मिलकर साजिश करने लगे कि इसको विफल कर दिया जाय, इस समाजवादी कदम को फेल कर दिया जाय। इसलिए ये लोग जानबूझ कर इसको असफल करने का प्रयत्न करते हैं। इस संबध में एक नहीं, कितने ही उदाहरण पेश किये जा सकते हैं। इस बारे में हमारे साथियों ने जांच की मांग की है। मेरे से पूर्व वक्ता श्री वाघेला जी ने मांग की है कि इसमें एक इन्क्वायरी से काम नहीं चलेगा। एक एक अफसर और इनके चेयरमैन और मेनेजिंग डायरेक्टर और उनके घरों में छापे मारे जायें और अचानक मारे जायें तो पता चलेगा कि इनके पास कितनी सम्पत्ति है और इनके पास इतनी सम्पत्ति कहां से आ गई। इनके पास इनकी आमदनी के अलावा कई गुना और कई सौ गुना अधिक सम्पत्ति है। टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन का चेयरमैन किसी भी मंत्री से ज्यादा ताकतवर है।

उसके पास इतना पैसा है कि वह उस पैसे से सब कुछ कर सकता है। अगर आप इन मामलों में गहराई से जायें तो आपको पता चलेगा कि ये सब लोग चोरी करते है और इसमें इनको बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों की मदद मिलती है। ये लोग करोड़ों करोड़ रुपये खा जाते हैं। इसमें जो दूसरे यूनिटों के हैड्स हैं, मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर्स हैं जैसे बी० सी० एल० है, सी० आई० एल० है और दूसरी संस्थाएं भी हैं, जहां बेशुमार रुपयों का घोटाला हुआ है, उनके रिश्तेदारों के पास करोड़ों रुपयों की सम्पत्ति है। यह 266 करोड़ रुपया कहां चला गया ? स्थिति यह है कि हमारे कपड़े की मांग दुनियां में बढ़ रही है। पिछले साल मैं अमेरिका गया था। वहां के लोग भारत के कपड़े को पसन्द करते है क्योंकि वहां पर कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन बहुत ज्यादा है मजदूरों को ज्यादा मजदूरी उन देशों में देनी पड़ती है। इसके विपरीत भारत में कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन कम है। पश्चिमी देशों की तुलना में हमारे यहां सस्ते दाम पर कपड़ा बनता है और हमारे यहां का कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्सन वहां का मशीन का खर्चा लगाकर भी कम है। लेकिन ये सब घपलाबाजी करते हैं, चोरी करते है। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी बिना कहे हुए रेड आर्गनाइज करें, सी० बी० आई० के द्वारा...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : यह आपने बतला दिया है। रिपीट न करें।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैं इस पर बल देना चाहता हूं। ....(**व्यवधान**)... मैं इस बात पर बल देना चाहता हूं। सारी बुराई की जड़ जहां है यह उनको मालूम होना चाहिए। मैं चाहता हूं कि आफिसरों के रिश्तेदारों, उनके दोस्तों के यहां भी छापे पड़ने चाहिए। अगर उनकी चोरी पकड़ी जाती है तो हर व्यक्ति सजग रहेगा।

महोदय, दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार की जो टैक्सटाइल नीति है, कपड़ा नीति है, उसमें जो हैंडलूम है उसको मारने, उसका गला टीपने की सरकार की नीति अभी चल रही है। सूत के दाम इतने बढ़ा दिये गये हैं, 33 फीसदी दाम उसके बढा दिये गये हैं। इससे जो गरीब लोग गांवों में इस काम में लगे हुए हैं उनकी रोजी-रोटी मारी जा रही है। टोटल बड़ी मिलों में जितने मजदूर हैं उससे करीब-करीब दस गुना ज्यादा मजदूर गांवों में इस हैंडलूम उद्योग में लगे हुए हैं। उनकी रोजी-रोटी दाम बढ़ने के कारण मारी जा रही है। इसलिये मेरा अनुरोध है कि कम से कम यह सूत के जो दाम बढ़ाये गये हैं, 33 फीसदी, उसका इस तरह से नियमन कराइये, उसको ऐसा नियंत्रित करिये ताकि सूत के दाम कम हो जांय और हैंडलूम का कपड़ा जो बनता है उसकी कीमत कम पड़े। मैं आपको यह बात कहना चाहता हूं मिल के कपड़ों से ज्यादा हैडीक्राफ्ट का जो कपड़ा है..... (**व्यवधान**)..... उसकी मांग विदेशों में ज्यादा है। हैडीक्राफ्ट....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : हैंडलूम कपड़ा है और हैंडीक्राफ्ट कुछ और है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : हैंडीक्राफ्ट में बहुत सी चीजें होती हैं और हैंडलूम में कपड़ा बनता है, इतनी बात मैं जानता हूं। हैंडलूम का कपड़ा और हैंडीक्राफ्ट का सामान मैं कह रहा हूं। इन दोनों चीजों की मांग विदेशों में बहुत ज्यादा है। ... (**व्यवधान**)....

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इसका जो मूल उद्देश्य, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट मे कहा है—सिक मिलों को जिंदगी देना उसकी बीमारी को दूर करके नई जिंदगी देना है। लेकिन इस काम में यह कारपोरेशन विफल रहा है और अपनी चोरी को छुपाने के लिए कारपोरेशन कह रहा है क्योंकि हमको टेक-ओवर करने समय बुरी तरह की मिल हमारे हाथ में आई इसलिए घाटा हुआ, यह कारण है घाटे का। लेकिन इसका यह कारण नहीं है। इसका जो कारण है वह है चोरी। मैं चाहता हूं कि इसके लिये पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी स्थापित की जाय जो इनकी जांच करे और पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटीज 2-3 बना लीजिये ताकि इनका ...(**व्यवधान**).. पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंगस कमेटी के पास बहुत काम है। 233 पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स पब्लिक सेक्टर में हैं।

इस लिए अगर वह उसके जिम्मे रहेगा 3 00 P.M. तो वह कोल देख रही है तो साल

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह

भर कोल देखती है अगर स्टील देखती है तो साल भर स्टील देखती है । इसलिए टेक्सटाइल कारपोरेशन को देखने के लिए अलग से पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी बनानी चाहिये और जांच करानी चाहिए । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Call Attention Motion was primarily regarding the proposed amalgamation scheme for the NTC units, but the discussion has become much more wider because the hon. Members are of opinion, and rightly so, that the textile industry occupies a very important place in our national economy, and therefore, the various aspects of the textile scenario in the country were brought up. The Textile Policy of 1985 was criticised. It was said that it should be abandoned and scrapped. Interests of the cotton growers were mentioned. Interests of powerlooms were also mentioned. Interests of the labour in organised sector were also mentioned. This shows the complexity of this industry which, at the one end, has the cotton growers and the Khadi or handloom sector and at the other end of spectrum is the highly specialised, capital intensive, vast textile machinery, the looms and spindles.

Sir, the Textile Policy of 1985 was an attempt, as any policy on textile would be and has to be, to reconcile what sometimes appear to be conflicting interests in the textile industry. Therefore the Textile Policy mentions what place the various components of the industry would have, what steps the Government would take to promote them and how to achieve the end which basically is that the consumer should get cloth at reasonable price and of acceptable quality. After all, it is he whom we have to consider in the ultimate analysis. From this point of view, the Textile Policy has not fared as badly as was made out. I can positively say that it has achieved some very positive results since 1985. Production of cloth has increased. There is stability for the consumer in textile prices. Prices have increased only marginally. I do not think there is any other consumer commodity where the prices have risen so slightly during the three years that the Policy has been in existence. Per capita availability, though slightly lower this year because of drought last year, has also increased during the three years. Exports have increased. And from this point of view, these parameters lead us to the conclusion that the Textile Policy has, by and large, succeeded. But still, since the textile scenario changes very fast and there are demands from various sections of the House representing various sectors of this industry that the policy should be reviewed, the Government has appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain which is going to look into it. All interests are represented in that. A meeting of the Committee has already been held and the Committee has split into certain groups, certain committees and they are preparing reports and the Chairman of the Committee is fully seized of the matter and he is expected to guide the deliberations in a very meaningful way. I do hope that these deliberations of this Committee would lead to some positive conclusions which might help the industry and its various constituents to prosper.

Now we come to NTC proper and the present policy of amalgamation which is being discussed here. The NTC was formed to take over sick textile mills. The textile industry suffered because of various reasons, the most important reason being that the mill owners, instead of caring for the health of their mills and the industry as a whole, siphoned off funds, may be legally, into areas other than textiles. Instead of strengthening and modernizing these mills, they abandoned them and went into other areas of industrialization. They had greener pastures there which attracted them and they went and started those industries.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But how.... (*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Not now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is giving a certificate about siphoning of the funds.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He is not yielding.... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Is it a character certificate? It is very unusual of a Minister ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Through the normal channel.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What normal channel? It was by making the industry sick, and the Minister is saying it is legal.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He has not said like that. He said, "Maybe legally" ... (*Interruptions*) ...I have heard the words... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, the point I am making is this, that it is a traditional, old, industry and since new industrial pastures were coming up, they abandoned their interest in these mills and went to other areas. That is the basic point I was making. That is one reason why this industry got sick and the Government stepped in to protect the employment, for social objectives—which were mentioned—for strengthening the economy and for serving public interests in a larger way, and took over these mills so that they could be run meaningfully. It should be clearly understood that when these mills were taken over, they were non-viable and sick. This fact has to be kept in mind. Over the years, things in the NTC have improved, and I will give you some facts and figures. So, it is not correct to say that after nationalization these conditions have not improved. I will take two figures of 1975-76 and 1987-88.

Production value of nationalised mills, 1975-76, Rs. 225 crores: 1987-88, Rs. 749 crores. Sales realization of cloth per metre, Rs. 2|- in 1975-76; Rs. 6.56 in 1987-88. Sales realization of market yarn, per kilogram, 1975-76, Rs. 12.27; 1987-88, Rs. 39.31. Similarly, the spinning productivity has increased, spinning utilization has increased and weaving utilization has increased. But in a fast-changing technological situation many things happen which, sort of, came in the way of progress of the NTC—a lot of new mills coming, new technology coming and the whole phenomena of the powerlooms, which I have mentioned. It is a really very important and significant development How they started, legally or illegally, is a different matter. But, over the years they have come to occupy a very important position in textile production with the result that 50 per cent of the country's cloth production comes from the powerloom sector. Handloom sector has slightly increased its production and the organized mills sector has declined. So, this appearance of the powerloom sector which has provided cheap cloth in many ways, which is not burdened with a lot of taxes, organized labour and things that go with this and many other basic advantages that the decentralized sector has, has come to occupy a position where mills in the composite sector are not able to compete with, and the same thing happened with the NTC. Therefore, because of the overcapacity in the country as a whole, because of the spinning and weaving capacity increasing and tastes of people changing, NTC could not invest as much as it should have or, at least, as much as was necessary to keep up with the changing textile scenario, technology and other ways. That is why it started making losses and it came to such a situation.

I have quoted the figures of the accumulated losses, which stand at Rs. 1,331 crores. This year, 1987-88, they stand at Rs. 266 crores. The loss is high because of high cotton prices. That is one big factor which commands our attention.

I will give some examples to see how much we are losing actually in some of the mills. If we keep the mills closed and pay the wages with labour sitting at home, we will be making less losses. There cannot be a more unsatisfactory situation. I am just taking at random. Victoria Mills at Kanpur loss is Rs. 833 lakhs and wages Rs. 685 lakhs. Total sales realisation of the product which they sold

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

in the market—we call them their income—is Rs. 478 lakhs.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is passing everything on the workers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please. He is giving the facts.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The House must know the facts. They can interpret it in any way they like. I don't mind.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is all because of their wrong marketing policy.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, this is not the way. The Minister is giving figures. You may disagree and interpret it in any way you like. But you cannot stop the House from having the facts and figures on it. (*Interruptions*) He is giving figures on sales and he is giving figures on wages.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Members may like to hear the Calcutta situation. Central Cotton Mills, Calcutta—sales realisation is Rs. 243 lakhs and wages re Rs. 395 lakhs.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Who is responsible for such a state of affairs?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That question you ask afterwards. Let him give the facts and figures.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : अंत में महोदय पूछने भी नहीं देते ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : क्या पूछने नहीं देते ? .... (**व्यवधान**).

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : अंत में आप पूछने नहीं देंगे ।

उप सभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : कैसे पूछने नहीं देंगे ? .... (**व्यवधान**).... आप सबको बोलने का मौका दिया गया था । अभी उनको भी बोलने का मौका देंगे या नही ? ..... (**व्यवधान**)...

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : तो सफाई देंगे न ? ... (**व्यवधान**)

If he misleads the House, we have every right to intervene.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am merely sharing with the House the facts and the House must know. The hon. Members might interpret it in any way they like. Please, I am not blaming the labour alone for this. I am merely saying that for historical reasons and for some other policies we are saddled with the labour whose cost is much more than the value of production. That is what I want to say. I share the responsibility because of lack of modernisation and you share the responsibility because management is insufficient. I do not deny it. But a very important aspect is that one-third of the NTC production value just goes to cover wages. You see even some of our mills in the South are doing very well and are earning profits. From efficiency point of view and from other points of view they are working very well. There also labour has contributed to this I am the first to concede it. Why do hon. Members draw conclusions in such a short way? It is the whole amalgam of the situation which I want to place before the House and the House has a right to know that for various reasons, one of which is the high cost of labour, which we have been trying to rationalise and reduce, this is all happening. Then again because of lack of modernisation, managerial inefficiencies, these are happening. I have admitted right away. In regard to managerial inefficiency in 124 and odd mills, nine subsidiaries and one holding company, I admit right away that we find it difficult to man all the posts at a particular time. Our procedure of selection as in any other sector of industry is such that if there are hundred mills they will also be facing the same problem. Therefore, one of the

reasons for amalgamation apart from labour, about which I will come to, a little later, is that if we can reduce the managerial cost, we can tide over the difficulty. There are mills across the road. For example there is one mill on this side of the road, there is another on the other side of the road. There are four to five mills in a couple of kilometres distance. So, a rational approach should be to have amalgamation without touching the labour. This is the top line of everything and this is the bottom line of everything. So, if for better management, you can amalgamate some units which are just face to face with each other, which are geographically suited at a certain situation, I do not think it is a wrong managerial proposal. These are the figures that we have given because we want to have an open dialogue on this. We do not want to hide anything. We do not do anything on the sly or wait and do somehting behind. We discussed it with various Governments, with the West Bengal Government, the Chief Ministers, the Labour Ministers in Maharashtra, with the Chief Minister and his Officers, the trade unions and to everyone we have told our plan. They gave us some counter suggestions. If you cannot do this, why don't you do this? Therefore, the whole dialogue is going on with them. When I said no decision has been taken, this is what I meant.

As regards reduction of labour strength, in the textile policy itself it is clearly mentioned that some mills, which cannot be made viable, will close. Here again, we are not interested whether mills run or not; we are interested in the welfare of the labour. The textile policy says...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Was any study made regarding viability? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Let him complete first. Then ask.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Our research associations have done it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Then give the report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You may not respond to him.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: So, what I wanted to say was that the textile policy itself envisages a situation when some mills will close. And the same policy says what consideration we will have for labour. For that a special dispensation has been laid down for the labour and the mills have been closed by way of....

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I am not conceding.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Point of order is not of your choice, whether you concede or not. Sir, this is a Calling Attention notice on the NTC. A statement was circulated and read out by the Minister. We have all taken part. Now, he is replying to the Calling Attention notice. What he is actually doing is that he is introducing new facts as a result of which members are getting perturbed and disturbed. He cannot introduce new facts. He must answer the points raised by the members. I can give you an example (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have heard you. You can continue now, Mr. Mirdha.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Are you satisfied, there is no point of order?

So, what I mean to say is that in the Textile Policy itself we have said what special dispensation we will have in regard to the labour and apart from the statutory dues, the Government of India will give them 75 per cent of the wages for the first year, 50 per cent for the next year and 25 per cent for the third year. Similarly, all these things have been said in the Textile Policy itself. In the NTC also we have been following what you call a voluntary retirement

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

scheme—this is nothing new—again with the consultation with the labour. There is no compulsion in this: there is no compulsory retrenchment in this. This is the same spirit with which we want to continue and work with the amalgamation scheme. It is open to everybody. We would see that we discuss with them and come to a situation when at least by some reorganisation the rest of the NTC could be saved and made much more viable.

A number of detailed points were raised. Some of these points have been raised by the hon. Members through letters and some during question Hour also. I will briefly mention them. But one thing I would like to say is that some hon. Members have made some personal references to individual officers of the NTC and of the Government. I think it is not in consonance with the rules of procedure in this House or the practice that is followed in this House.

[**The Vice-Chairman (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya**) in the Chair]

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I am on a point of order. While discussing the non-viability and losses of NTC, I have categorically levelled charges of corruption and mismanagement, and while levelling the charges of corruption and mismanagement, I have cited some concrete cases. They are all within the rules. It is quite within the purview of the rule. I cited concrete cases while we are discussing viability and non-viability, existence and non-existence, profit and loss of the company. It cannot be out of the rule. I would like the Minister not to avoid the issue. I would like to know whether he is prepared to enquire into all the charges that I have levelled against his Officers and his administration specifically. I say because of them the NTC has been looted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): : Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, are you making a point of order or are you making a speech? (*Interruption*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He is beating about the bush. Let him say straight.... (*Interruption*)..

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, is it a point of order?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): It is not a point of order. I have already ruled it out.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is a point of disorder. (*Interruption*)

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Sir, how do you say that it is not a point of order?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): You cannot challenge my ruling.

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : पहले बताना पड़ता है कि अमुक आदमी के बारे में आप क्या कहने वाले हैं । आप पहले कानून पढ़िए । आपने नहीं कहा, इसलिए मेरा ऐतराज है, मेरी आपत्ति है । नियमों का उल्लंघन किया गया है ।

Our Rules of Procedure lay down how allegations should be made and should not be made. I am not going beyond that. I am merely pointing out that some of the things should not have been done because of the Rules of Procedure and the Convention of the House. These are not done. Officers are not mentioned by names. First, a notice has to be given by the hon. Member who is going to speak. Nothing of this sort has happened.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : स्पष्ट अभियोग लगाने समय नाम तो लेना ही पड़ेगा कि इस काम में . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . सी. बी. आई. से कब तक इंक्वायरी कराएंगे ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : आप सवाल पूछेंगे तो जवाब दूंगा कि सी. बी. आई. से कितनी इंक्वायरी हो रही है ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You are protecting the corrupt officers.

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : आप नियम पढ़ लीजिए । नियमों के मुताबिक आप रखें, मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है । सदन चलाने के लिए आपने और हम ने जो नियम बनाए हैं, उसके मुताबिक आप करेंगे तो मुझे स्वीकार है ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: That is for the Chair to decide. . .

. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: That is why, I am submitting it to the Chair itself. As regards the specific instances, the hon. Member has written to the Prime Minister as well as to me and whatever he would write, we would reply in a proper way. Everything is enquired into. We have built up a reasonble good vigilance set up. The CBI has also been involved. We are very keen that vigilance cases are dealt with in a proper way. I can assure the House that this aspect of the NTC is being strengthened day by day and whatever instances are given in a concrete way would be... (*Interruptions*). . .

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I have placed everything before the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: If you write to me separately, I will do that. (*Interruptions*)... You have already written to me about some of the matters.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What about the export deal? (*Interruption*).

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: What I mean, Sir, is that there are so many points which can be raised by way of questions and I can answer any type of questions on that score. (*Interruption*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The NTC will be losing Rs. 9 crores because of the export . . . (*Interruption*) What about the export deal?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Ask a separate question. Give notice.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why separate question? You are exporting 17 million metres of cloth to foreign countries. (*Interruption*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): He may be right. (*Interruptions*) . . .

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister is not replying.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Now, we take up the Prevention of Corruption Bill, 1987. Shri Kailash Pati Mishra. (*Interruption*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): It will not go on record.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदय, हम लोगों को अभी पूछना है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय): करप्शन प्रिवेंशन बिल ले लिया है । उसमें श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र का नाम बुलाया गया है ।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आपने पहले जो उपसभाध्यक्ष जी बैठे थे, उन्होंने कहा था कि मंत्रीजी के जवाब के बाद आप सफाई में पूछ सकते हैं । उसके लिए हम लोगों को मौका ही नहीं मिला । आप हम लोगों के राइटस को मत छीनिए । . . . (**व्यवधान**) . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Will you please take your seat, Mr. Ram Awadesh Singh: (*Interruption*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, the Minister has made a long speech but the main points have not been properly answered (*Interruptions*) ... I would like to have clear answers on two main points.

. . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

*Not recorded.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Here is the biggest scandal of the country. The Minister* admits in the House that Rs. 250... (*Interruption*) . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Nothing will go on record.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): You cannot force the Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Mr. Kailash Pati Mishra will speak on Corruption Bill.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:*

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Mr. Ram Awadhesh Singh, Mr. Das Gupta and Mr. Moraka, please take your seats. I request you to take your seats.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : I have a point of order. The point of order is this.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have a point of order. Mr. Vice-Chairman, please listen to me.

श्री कमल मोरारका : मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि इस सदन के जो कानून हैं उनके अन्तर्गत हम लोगें एक कालिंग अटेंशन नोटिस डिस्क्स कर रहे हैं । दो घंटे तक उस पर यहां बहस हुई है । मिनिस्टर महोदय ने एक स्टेटमेंट पहले जारी किया था जिसके ऊपर बहस हुई । यह कोई कानून नहीं हो सकता कि उसके जवाब में वह एक दूसरा जवाब दे दें, जिसका हमारी बहस से कोई संबंध नहीं हो । मुझे ताज्जुब है कि इसके पहले हमारी स्टेटमेंट के जवाब में वह नामीबिया या निकारागुआ की बात . . . (**व्यवधान**) . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाशमालवीय) : प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर क्या है ?

श्री कमल मोरारका : हमारा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर यह है कि उनको मैम्बरों का जवाब देना पड़ेगा ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : ऐसा है कि मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दे दिया है, और किस प्रकार का जवाब . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : जो गुमराह किया है सदन को उसकी सफाई देनी पडेगी । यह सदन है कोई . . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . . आप जो चाहे करिए, आप कुर्सी पर है, लेकिन अगर जवाब हमें नहीं मिलेगा तो क्या होगा ?

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Sir, my point is this. I have heard the long speech. He has not touched the main point. He has gone around. He has said that the amalgamation scheme has not been finalised. He has spoken in favour of amalgamation. My point is, if the amalgamation is implemented, what will happen to the workers who will be rendered surplus? (*Interruptions*). Will the Government accommodate all these workers in their NTC mills? We have raised many points of corruption. Will the Minister assure the House that there will be a thorough probe into this matter and that he will place the report on the Table of the House ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I would like to submit this, through you, to my friends opposite. The Minister has categorically stated that wherever there are complaints against officers, he will look

*Not recorded.

into them. Hon. Members are expected to write to him. He will enquire into them. He has got an excellent vigilance arrangement with the NTC. Secondly, if my hon. friends had listened to the reply of the hon. Minister, they would not have raised these points. He has completely dealt with the Textile Policy on the NTC amalgamation scheme and he has stated that the scheme is still not implemented. It is under consideration. It is for my hon. friend, the smart, young, boy like Mr. Morarka to understand. He is failing to understand. कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर और मिनिस्टर साहब आपको जवाब दे देंगे । जो कुछ है. . (व्यवधान) . . .

श्री कमल मोरारका: आप डिफेंड क्यों कर रहे हैं ? Why do you want to defend it?

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: I will defend what is defendable; I do not defend what is undefendable.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: We want one assurance from the Minister that no Government land will be sold.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I raised a number of points. I gave a concrete case. I wanted to know why the Government entered into a foreign deal with a foreign country which would mean a loss of Rs. 9 crores to our country. This is not about a person or a Minister. Why should he not answer that?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): We are discussing a Calling Attention. It is not a question-answer session. Even for questions the Ministers seek advance notice so that the Ministers can come thoroughly prepared with the information. The purpose of a Calling Attention is to call the attention of the Minister to the various aspects of a problem or situation with all of which he might be ready or he might not be ready. During the discussion various points come up and the Minister will study them and look into them. It is not always possible for the Minister to react then and there on the floor of the House in response to all the questions; he will have to get the points examined, inquired into. Therefore, we cannot convert this into a question-answer session. The Minister's answer may be satisfactory or may not be satisfactory. The idea is you draw the attention of the Minister through your points and questions to the lapses and lacunae and the Minister will study them and take necessary action. He cannot straightway react positively or negatively on the floor of the House. You have brought it to the notice of the Minister and he has taken cognizance of the points raised (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Nothing will go on record.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Chair has already called the next item. . . . (*Interruptions*) . . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) : जो विषय यहां उठाय गया उसके संबंध में श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा जी ने उत्तर दिया है, और बातों के सिलसिले में उन्होंने कहा कि मेरे पास लिखकर आयेगा तो मैं सदस्यों को सूचित कर दूंगा, कालिंग अटेंशन मोशन अब खत्म हो चुका है । दूसरा जो विषय है वह भ्रष्टाचार निरोधक विधेयक का है । अब हम उसको लेते हैं । श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र ।

(*At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber.*)

PREVENTION O FCORRUPTION BILL 1987—Contd.

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भ्रष्टाचार निवारण संशोधन विधेयक अभी तक देश में अनेक बार आ चुका है । 1947 में संशोधन विधेयक आया था, फिर 1964 में आया, फिर 1987 में आया और